



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

December 22, 1994

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*We remember everything Christmas
has meant to us over the years,
and hope that you find the joy
that this season brings.*

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and all as we end our 15th
year in business.**

**The Sardella Family
Ric, Betsy, Kaitlin, Chase, and Cristina**

Political Brinkmanship For President Of Agawam Council Year-End Rite

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Some things you can count on - like death and taxes. And the annual December guessing game for political pundits, people in-the-know, people who want to be in-the-know, and people who think they are in-the-know has again begun in earnest - who will be next year's Town Council president?

Monday night's meeting marked the end of council business for 1994. When the council convenes again on Tuesday, January 3rd, the first and only order of business will be to elect its leadership for the coming year. It may take a while or it may breeze by in a wink. This depends on how long it takes councilors to reach some consensus on who will hold the gavel in 1995.

Names Being Bandied About

As always, rumors abound as one name or another is bandied about as a possible choice for the posts of council president and vice-president. And, as always, some councilors are willing to go on record with their support while others prefer to play it close to the vest.

Council President James D. Taylor said he is willing to take on the job for another term "if they want me to serve."

"It's a very time-consuming position if you're going to do it correctly," Taylor said. "There's a lot to learn - not just about issues. You have to learn how to get things done correctly."

As he did last year, Councilor David Skolnick is planning to nominate Taylor for the post.

"By far, he's the best candidate we will be nominating," Skolnick told us.

No one has approached him to support another candidate because "they know better," Skolnick added.

Noting that he has not been approached by any candidate for support, Councilor Walter Balboni said he is available to serve as council president.

"I haven't pursued it," Balboni said. "I'm available if they want me. I can live with it or without it."

Not a candidate himself, former Council President Edward A. Caba told us he is "toying with the idea of supporting either Balboni or Councilor Nancy Thompson." He will not be supporting Taylor. Nor will Councilor Thomas Ennis.

Ennis said simply, "Anybody but Taylor. He's

done too many things behind the backs of other councilors."

Ennis criticized Taylor's recent vacation in Aruba with Mayor Christopher C. Johnson that left council Vice-President George Bitzas as acting mayor.

"We assumed when the Mayor went out of town, Jim (Taylor) was in charge," Ennis said.

Ennis also cited Taylor's method of applying for a state grant for an irrigation system at the Agawam Country Club last June as another reason he will not support him for council president.

Council Vice-President George Bitzas will not be a candidate for the same position in 1995.

"I had the position for two terms and I appreciate the full support I've had from the council," Bitzas said. "Jim (Taylor) and I had a good team but it's time to let someone else have a turn."

Candidate For Vice-President

Nancy Thompson said while she would not seek the presidency if Taylor ran, she would be a candidate for vice-president.

"I would support Jim," Ms. Thompson said. "He's very knowledgeable of Robert's Rules and conducts the meetings appropriately."

Councilor Jill Simpson is mulling over a bid for council vice-president. "I'm still thinking about vice-president," Mrs. Simpson said. "But I haven't done any lobbying."

While she is not supporting any one candidate, Mrs. Simpson said she had been asked for support from "a couple of people."

Asked if he would consider running for president, Councilor Robert Danie told us, "Maybe, if 10 other people declined." Danie said he has not decided on his choice for the job.

So, the votes are still being counted and the behind-the-scenes lobbying will continue right through the holidays. Those interested will be in suspense for another two weeks.

At least that will give those interested something else to talk about besides all those New Year's resolutions that are never intended to be kept anyway.

Merry Christmas And Season's Greetings From Sen. Melconian

Senator Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) once again will be donating money to charitable causes this year in lieu of sending Christmas cards to her many friends, constituents, and supporters.

"For those of us who are most fortunate, the season is a time for families to come together and share in the festive spirit of holiday cheer and good tidings. This is also a time for giving and compassion. We must remember that there are people who will ring in the New Year without a roof over their head or family members to whom they can turn for support," said Melconian.

The Committee to Elect Linda J. Melconian will make donations to four shelters that serve men and women in need throughout Western Massachusetts: the Springfield Rescue Mission; the Woman Shelter/Companeras in Holyoke; and the two shelters sponsored by the YWCA of Western Massachusetts - the Abuse and Rape Crisis Hotline (ARCH) in Springfield and New Beginnings in Westfield.

Senator Melconian stated, "Homelessness is not just an urban problem. The Springfield Rescue Mission serves the needy and homeless, not only in downtown Springfield but in the surrounding suburbs as well."

She continued, "Hampden County's three shelters for women have a laudable record of helping victims of abuse and domestic violence. Charitable donations are even more critical as these programs struggle to keep up with the spiraling demand for their services. Unfortunately, the rising tides of domestic violence and homelessness do not abate during the holidays."

"I wish all of my friends, family, supporters, and constituents a safe, healthy, and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year," concluded Melconian.

We do not publish next week. Thanks.

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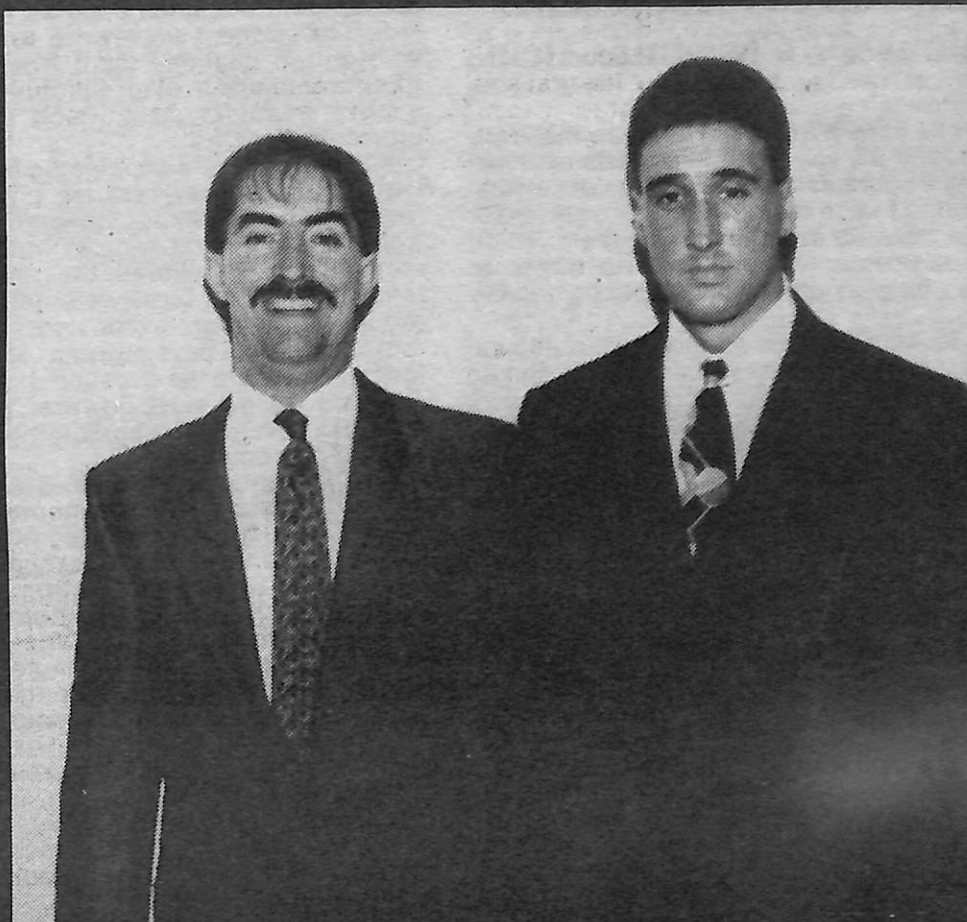
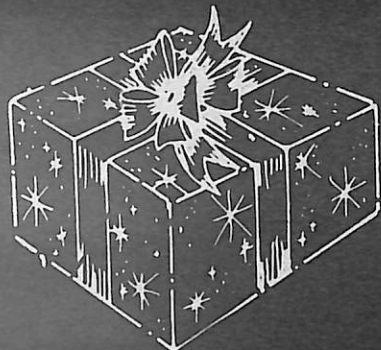


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Letters To The Editor

Councilor Bitzas Appreciates Donations Of Christmas Items

To The Editor:

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the businesses and the call firefighters for their donations of the Christmas trees, wreaths, and lights.

I would also like to thank the DPW workers for putting the trees up and decorating them. To all the other residents who called with offers to donate and help in other ways, thank you very much.

We are looking forward to more town decorations next year and in years to come. We should be proud of our town and continue to work together to improve it.

Merry Christmas to all of you and the best in the New Year.

George Bitzas
Agawam City Council Vice-President

Council Proposal For Revising Charter Comes Under Fire

To The Editor:

I think we all have heard that old saying that goes, "In God we trust. All others pay cash." Well, for me anyway, it sums up how I feel about this Council rewriting our charter. Forgive me if I dig up anyone's old classmates, but as far as I know, none of you are named George Washington or Abraham Lincoln, so I do not have a real good reason to trust you.

I would like to point out some of the differences between Mass General Law 43B and the Council Committee you now propose.

One difference is Mass General Law 43B is separate from the City/Town Council. All nine members of the Charter Commission are elected by the voting populace of this community in an at-large election.

Your committee is appointed by the Council.

Another difference is, you (as councilors) may, if you wish, put parameters on your committee. What I mean when I say parameters is, you may tell your committee members to look at a particular part of the charter and totally ignore another. Your committee members are duty-bound to adhere to your wishes.

Acting under Mass General Law 43B, no one can tell the publicly-elected members of the Charter Commission what it can and can not look at, or act upon.

Yet another difference is, acting under Mass General Law 43B, the Charter Commission is required to hold a number of public hearings.

The Council Committee you propose is not required to hold any public hearings.

Still another difference is, if your Council Committee comes up with a proposal, it is given to the Committee Chairperson, who is a sitting member of the City/Town Council. If the chairperson does not like a certain measure within the proposal, he or she may remove it from that proposal. Then he or she, as can the acting members of the City/Town Council, will bring the Committee sug-

gestion to the main body of the City/Town Council, where only what passes the main body of the City/Town Council will be brought before the voters.

Under Mass General Law 43B, if the City/Town Council does not pass its recommendation in its entirety, it will automatically go before the voters.

As to the Council Committee and its purpose, if you look at the members proposed to this committee, you will see (as I have seen) two sitting Councilors, two former Councilors, one sitting School Committee member, and one sitting member of the Planning Board.

The message that you, the City/Town Council, are sending me, is as plain as the nose on your face. Government will rewrite our charter with absolutely no qualified input from the citizens of this community. In other words, you are proposing a government of men, which I find absolutely unacceptable.

I can remember campaigning on charter reform. I would like to say here my plan was to, at all times, implement Mass General Law 43B. What I wanted to do was bring out in the debate many areas where I believed the charter should be reformed. Among these were: term limits; council reduction and/or expansion; separate legal representation; pay; powers; and finally settle (once and for all) the question of whether we are a City or a Town. I must, however, state again at no time did I ever think I had the right to rewrite our charter by committee.

I realize that 43B is a law and, as such, it is open to interpretation. Please remember - those doing the interpreting are practicing attorneys.

Please also remember that, according to the Massachusetts Bar Association, there are some 35,000 to 40,000 practicing attorneys in the State of Massachusetts, and from what I have seen they need all the practice they can get.

I feel compelled to say here that I am not an attorney. However, I also feel compelled to say that because I am not an attorney, that it does not prevent me or preclude me from reading and understanding the law.

Massachusetts General Law 43B is divided into 20 sections. Each of those sections deals exclusively with how to go about charter reform within all municipalities.

Mass General Law 43B spells out in great detail as to how many members of the Commission it shall have, and what authority to use to enact it—rules that govern its actions while it is in place, and even how long they have to put a new charter together. For those of you who want to know, **according to MGL 43B, they have 18 months from start to finish to produce a charter to be voted on.**

You have the authority as a body to implement Mass General Law 43B.

I would like to point out that you are politicians elected by the voting populace of this community. If you believe, as some believe, that the voters of this community are not intelligent enough to make informed decisions on 43B, then how do you explain the fact that you are sitting where you're sitting and listening to me. If you believe which I believe—which is, that people are smart enough to make these types of decisions—then please institute 43B.

The simple fact of the matter is Mass General Law 43B is there not to take up space on paper in some law book somewhere, but it is there to be used by municipalities like ourselves. If it is not there to be used by municipalities like ourselves, please tell me why Mass General Law 43B was written, as it has no other purpose but charter reform?

I would like to close now by asking you this question: shall we, as a community, have a government of laws as spelled out in Mass General Law 43B, or shall we have a government of men as spelled out in this Council Committee

that you wish to enact?

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to express my viewpoints on this issue.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all!

Your friend,
Mr. Loren Montagna
Agawam

Andruss Family Grateful To Agawam's 911 Team

To The Editor:

Agawam's Emergency Response Team and Special Cardiac Unit deserves high recognition for their promptness and their hard-working professionalism.

On December 2nd, Robert Andruss, our father/husband, was returning from lunch. Within two minutes from getting out of the car, he fell to the ground in what to us appeared to be a heart attack.

We immediately called 911. By the time we got back outside, we already heard sirens. They worked so hard and continuously, never giving up for one second. We felt like we were watching a movie; the family was uncontrollable until a very special officer, Terry Letellier, helped us calm down. Not only was he helping to save Robert, but he was helping the family.

Terry was Robert's friend and I'm sure that made the impact much more difficult. But Terry still remained composed and extremely helpful.

Our special thanks to Officer Stephen Draghetti. Your hard work on trying to save our father/husband will always be remembered. Your quick response and dedicated action should be commended by all in the town and your department.

Terry, you will forever be in our hearts for all you did. Remember always (like you said), you were there from "the beginning to the end." Though we lost the biggest part of our lives, we will always be thankful to the Agawam 911 Team.

Sincerely,
Marie, Lori, Frankie and Debbie Andruss

SEE LETTERS -
continued on next page...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Tuesday, December 27th
Support group for widows & widowers (sponsored by Forastiere Family Funeral Homes) at Grief Support Center, Forastiere Funeral Home of E. Longmeadow, 220 N. Main St. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
This group is offered to the public free of charge, and no pre-registration is required. Call 733-5311 for more info.

Tuesday, December 27th
Agawam Chapter of Mass. Citizens For Life (all are welcome) At the Agawam Police Station Community Room 7:30 p.m.
For more info, call 789-4117

Wednesday, December 28th
Christmas Vacation Magic Show for Agawam & Feeding Hills children (ages five and up) At Agawam Public Library To register for program, call the library at 789-1550 or stop by at 750 Cooper Street

Thursday, December 29th
"Coffee Hour" to honor retiring Rec. Dept. Director Jack Kunasek At AHS Cafeteria 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
The public is cordially invited



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LETTERS - from Page 4...**Tracking System Best For Agawam High School Students****To The Editor:**

As a graduate of Agawam High School who has listened with interest to the debate over heterogeneous grouping for the past month, I feel now that I must speak out for the sake of both my younger sister and other future graduates of the Agawam School system. Perhaps the reason I have not become involved before this point is simply that I could not believe that the current plan would ever really be seriously considered.

The situation as I understand it is this: a state mandate requiring the merging of general and college prep courses has taken or is about to take effect. While this legislation does not require the further merging of all ability levels into one group, the Agawam School System is about to switch to a completely heterogeneous grouping system, with no distinction between general, college prep, or high ability. My main question is, why?

From experience, I know that the decision to place a student in one level or another was often arbitrary. Students who wanted to move up a level were often discouraged (though not by teachers or parents), and unless the student and his/her parents were willing to make some noise, they would end up trapped in general classes, receiving an education below their potential and below what they deserved. For this reason, I applaud the move to remove the distinction between general and college prep level classes.

To remove high ability classes from the curriculum is not the same and would not provide additional opportunities for anyone. Mr. Ryder has implied that students would be grouped within the classroom, as they are in neighboring towns. Even if students are separated to a certain extent in the classroom according to ability, the lecture material and curriculum may, by necessity, remain the same for all 30 students if they are sitting in the same room listening to the same instructor at the same time. The only distinction which could be made would involve simply loading down those students with more work, busy work. I think I can speak for many students when I say that we are essentially lazy people. If you do not force us to work harder, we will sink to the minimum level of effort required to pass.

Even if the AP program is continued, this could not absorb the overflow of students displaced from the high ability courses. These classes, by necessity, must remain small to provide the necessary close contact between instructor and student which makes a high school course the equivalent of a college level course.

Since I have graduated, I have been in contact with graduates of many high schools from across the country. I have come to the conclusion that my high school education was average. There are better and there are worse, but all the best things about it were due to teachers with the freedom to be a little more creative with curriculums and lecture material.

This freedom to give the top students in a class the opportunity to explore their full potential exists in the high ability program, where the teacher is free to rise to the level of those students. I'm sorry if the term "high ability" is not politically correct enough, but change the name, don't destroy something that works as it is supposed to in order to fix something else. A second rate education is the single biggest handicap we can give our graduates.

Eric Rose
AHS Class of 1990

Council Was Right In Voting Against Charter Proposal**To The Editor:**

This week, the City Council overwhelmingly defeated Charter review as proposed by Councilors Thompson and Dziardziel. And, thankfully so.

For those who aren't aware, this was the exact same proposal that was set forth by Councilor Thompson almost two years ago to the day. It was nearly exactly word for word, including inappropriately naming the review committee members in advance. Also, this proposal was previously defeated by a bi-partisan majority of the council.

Make no mistake, Charter review and revision is long overdue and absolutely should be done. The problem lies in the way some councilors want to do it.

Two years ago, those in favor of this proposal met privately to choose members of the committee and formulate both a preset agenda as well as a hidden one. I wonder if the same actions and

motives were behind this latest proposal; if so, such actions are counterproductive in terms of good and open government. It also assumes that the people of Agawam are incapable of reviewing their own Charter and making their own recommendations.

Remember, the Charter belongs to the people of this community and not to the council or any other elected or appointed body. Therefore, any review, revision, or other action regarding the Charter should begin and end with the people of Agawam; in short, to do it right, the Charter should be handled by an elected commission and not a preordained committee. Doing so will help to prevent any further hidden political agendas and insure that the people of Agawam truly make all decisions regarding their Charter.

Clearly, in the past, the majority of councilors have favored an elected charter commission and not an appointed one. Long before I became a member of the previous council, I repeatedly stated that, for several reasons, there has to be Charter revision.

Some of them are: first, the present charter was written for a manager form of government. When we changed to a Mayor, the Charter was never revised to reflect that change. As a result, we have a form of government that gives less power to the people and more to whoever happens to be Mayor. Even the council, in many circumstances, has its hands tied in terms of protecting its constituents' interest. As a result, the Charter, as presently written, contains no meaningful checks and balances.

Secondly, there are no recall provisions to protect the citizens from any elected officials who prove to be less than legitimate in their capacities as elected officials. In other words, if a Mayor, Councilor, or School Committee Member is a crook, we can't get rid of that person until the next election.

Third, once a Mayor makes a recommendation, all department head candidates should be confirmed by the council. Presently, whoever is Mayor controls who gets hired and who gets fired in Agawam and no one else. Requiring confirmation will show that the candidate is truly qualified for the job and, therefore, eliminate most of the politics that presently enter into the Town's hiring practices.

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

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LETTERS - from Page 5...

Before I close, I would like to comment on statements made in the media by the sponsors of the Charter resolution. Councilors Thompson and Dziardziel have repeatedly stated that at least some of those who are against their proposal are against any Charter changes. It can then be assumed that anyone, past or present, who is against their methods (as proposed) is against Charter change.

Such statements are blatantly false and should be retracted. Not once, either on this council or the previous one, has any member, at any time, stated they were against Charter revision. In fact, every councilor (past and present) who has spoken on Charter revision, has spoken in favor of the measure. The only contentious area has been in the implementation of any revisions.

It seems that if there are any councilors who have a problem with accepting even a compromise solution to Charter revision, they are Councilors Thompson and Dziardziel. They were so bent on railroading their agenda past the people of Agawam, that they refused to consider any other alternatives. To use the excuse that their way would be quicker ignores the fact that something as important as Charter revision should be done with absolute care and with all those involved working towards the same goal.

If they genuinely care about Charter review and revision, then they will be willing to compromise and accept the provisions of MGL 43B, which provides for Charter revision by way of an elected commission. Doing so will then leave no doubt who is truly for Charter revision and who isn't.

Louis J. Russo
Feeding Hills

Agawam High Senior Against Heterogeneous Grouping

To The Editor:

My name is Steven Martin, and I am a senior at Agawam High School. I would like to call your attention to a recent proposal by the School Committee that has disturbed many students and faculty at the high school. Specifically, I would like to address the issue of introducing heterogeneous grouping.

Starting with the class of 1997, classes which have been separated based on ability for years will be recombined into one level. In theory, the slower-learning students will be pulled along to higher achievement by the more advanced students, with no lowering of academic standards. Unfortunately, this lofty goal is almost certainly doomed to failure.

In such an environment, the teachers will be forced to teach to (at best) slightly below the mean ability level of the class in order to avoid losing the weaker students. These students may still become frustrated and lose interest as the class rolls along, since the teacher would be unable to stop to attend to their needs.

At the same time, the high-ability students will become bored with the slow (to them) pace; and, with no challenges to their abilities, they will never learn the study habits necessary for success in an institution of higher learning.

A key element of the proposed heterogeneous grouping is "cooperative learning." Cooperative learning is essentially a group of students working together on a class project. While this may be a great theory, it doesn't hold up in practice.

It's been tried in several non-heterogeneous classes in the high school, and has generally received mediocre results at best. Usually one or two members of the group will have to carry more than their own weight, due to disinterest on the part of their partners. In heterogeneous grouping, the high-ability students would be expected to take this lead role and help teach the other students.

However, as Jessica DeGray, a freshman at AHS, stated at the School Committee meeting on December 13th, "High-ability students don't come to school to teach, they come to learn." Requiring students to help teach a class may help bring the low end up to par, but it does little to help the teaching students.

Those students who oppose heterogeneous grouping have recently been labeled as "elitist," "selfish," and "close-minded" by certain members of the school community. It appears that many people believe we are only protecting the rights of the advanced students, but heterogeneous grouping actually hurts all classes of students.

In a combined classroom experience, there may not be enough time to give the slower learners the extra help they need. Student-teachers can be a great help to low-ability students, but they can never replace the actual teacher. Many would not even be willing or able to perform teaching functions, thus actually retarding another student's ability to learn.

It is my hope that the townspeople can work together to stop this dangerous new trend before it is too late. I would encourage the members of this town, especially parents and students, to make their opinions known to the School Committee.

If enough people make their feelings known, then we will be heard.

Sincerely
Steven Martin
Agawam

Let Us Examine The Two-Fold Significance Of Christmas

To The Editor:

One of the stories of the newborn baby Jesus is easy to respond to; another calls for serious resolve.

The first is the story of the birth of Jesus and the incidents surrounding that birth. According to the proclamation of the angel, expectations grew high. The time drew nearer and excitement became more intense.

There was a journey to be taken because of the call for taxation. Then, as the moment for birth drew nearer, it became more stressful because there was no home for the parents or the child. But suddenly, the scene changes from humble simplicity to something amazing; the scene becomes something gloriously spectacular as angels gather, the heavenly choir sings, the shepherds pay homage, and the wise men give of their riches.

It is Christmas! What a morning! What a day, as emotions are stirred; and, to this day, there are those who seek nothing more than to enjoy that spirit of entertainment. Fair enough, because the birth of Christ is the supreme expression of God's love for human beings, and it is not indifferent to human simplicity in understanding and responding to such complexities as divinity and its intervention in the human dimension.

The intention, however, is that the coming of Jesus would not only bestir the gleeful response from those who longed to be set free, but that it would also challenge the hearts and lives of the complacent and "cool guy" who thinks everything is going just as he planned it.

So we come to the second story. It is centered on Simeon's response as the child Jesus is brought to the temple. Through the words of Simeon, we are confronted with the formidableness of the gospel of Jesus. Here we do not hear the words that readily touch off the "beautiful chords of instinctive sentiment in men's hearts" which may be aesthetic and shallow, but we hear the deeper consequences of the birth:

*"Behold, this child is set for the fall
and rising of many in Israel
and for a sign that is spoken against."*

Do you still wonder that Herod became so enraged that he ordered the slaughter of innocents when he did not know the whereabouts of the child Jesus? Or do we still question the fact that in spite of his good deeds, Jesus was put to death on a cross?

Whereas we easily associate the festival of Christmas with the Christ child, let us also be most cognizant of the man into whom the child of Bethlehem is grown. He is the man who comes also with the sword of judgement; who is stern in his demands for justice and fair play within the family, at the workplace, or at the meeting of our councils.

He comes with shining moral and spiritual force, and makes cleavage in human life. So we either love him or hate him. Kill him or follow him to the cross, then take up his cause.

Let us keep this two-fold significance of Christmas before us.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
R.B.A. Telemaque
Pastor, Agawam United Methodist Church

Youth Group Appreciates Help With Can And Bottle Drive

To The Editor:

On Saturday, December 10th, the Jr. High Youth Group from the Agawam Congregational Church ended its week-long drive by standing outside Dave's Soda and Pet Food City collecting cans and soda bottles. Because of everyone's generosity, they were able to raise \$170 to donate to the Open Pantry in West Springfield.

Thank you to everyone who gave us their returnables to redeem, especially Allen Lawnmower (who donated a large number of cans), and a special "thank you" to Dave for the space in his parking lot.

Sincerely,
Jr. High Youth Group
Agawam Congregational Church

Jr. Women's Club Thanks Everyone For Year-Long Help

To The Editor:

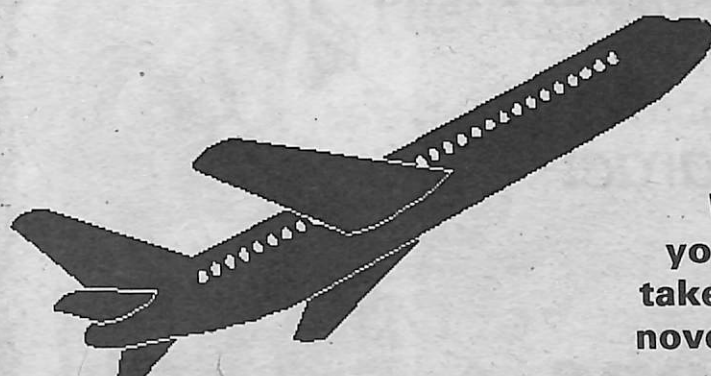
Our club would like to wish the businesses, associations, clubs, and residents in the area who helped us this past year with many of our programs, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We especially want to thank each and every one of you for your help with many of our fundraisers and community projects. Your help makes it possible for our organization to continue to contribute each year to the many programs that make a difference in our neighborhood; programs like DARE, holiday baskets and gifts for those in need, sponsoring a person in a dependency program, the Safety Bug program, conservation programs, and many more.

Without your help, none of this would be possible.

Merry Christmas from the
Agawam Junior Women's Club

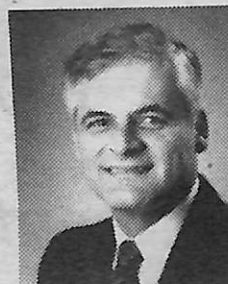
SEE LETTERS -
continued on Page 7...



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LETTERS - from Page 6...

In-Town Soccer Season Again Another Great Success**To The Editor:**

The Agawam Soccer Association has concluded its 1994 fall in-town season. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the coaches and their assistants for a job well done.

All of these dedicated individuals voluntarily give up their time and talent for our children. This past season, we had over 70 head coaches teaching our children from ages five to age 16.

Again, our deepest appreciation and thanks. We hope to see all of you back next year, and some new faces as well, as the program keeps growing.

Thank you,
Dave Shaw (In-town girls' director)
Nick Alfano (In-town boys' director)
Jim Stevenson (In-town vice president)

Reorganization Plans Does Not Follow Town Charter**To The Editor:**

What is wrong with this present reorganization plan? Reorganization is defined by an "ordinance to amend" item (9) of the agenda - Public Hearing. Quote, "Amend P 8 of sub-section (C) and sub P (a) of P 9 of sub-section C of Section 49-7 or Chapter 49 of the City Code."

How many town councilors understand what is being done by this action? The ordinance asks for a reorganization. An order to reorganize it must be done by following the letter of the law, Chapter 6-2 of the Town Charter. What is being attempted is a charter revision by the improper following of Chapter 6-2. The word SHALL in law means no deviations; it must be followed exactly as Chapter 6-2 dictates. BUT you are revising 6-2, which is a revision of the Charter.

In other words, a precedent would be set by the council.

In 6-2, the words are, quote, "Such reorganization plans SHALL be accompanied by an ex-

planatory message when submitted to the council." This the Mayor has done. Continuing, quote, "Section (b) every such reorganization Plan SHALL, upon receipt by the clerk of the council, be referred to an appropriate committee of the City Council which SHALL, not more than 30 days later, SHALL hold a public hearing on the matter, SHALL within 10 days following such a hearing, report either that the committee approves or that it disapproves of the plan. NOTE: The appropriate committee should be the ordinance, or rules committee. Quote, "A reorganization plan shall become effective ninety days after the date it is received by the city council, or later if so stated."

Therefore, the reorganization plan has been abridged by the fact that by not following 6-2 exactly, it now has become a charter revision (if it passes).

The council president and Mayor Johnson have plotted on how to ensure passage of the article by calling an improper public hearing. It is obvious they plotted to not give the public, the people, their right to a properly called hearing. If you, the

SEE LETTERS - Page 8...



Where's Stella? Who's That Guy? Happy Valentine's? Happy St. Patrick's Day?
Happy Easter? Happy Thanksgiving? Whose Birthday? No, No ...



... Wait, I Got It ...

"Happy Holidays!"**From All Of Us At E.B.'s****(Congratulations Shelley & Doug On Your Engagement)**

LETTERS - from Page 7...

councilors, studied the charter, you would have found it to be so.

I will read part of the law, Chap. 6-2, to show what I mean and how reorganization should be done. First, the meeting as posted on the agenda can never be understood as posted. Can any of you councilors figure out just what it does say? You, the councilors, got a 21-page document which should become the law if it passes. BUT where is the public notice by the proper committee, not the council, to call the public hearing. The law is clear enough for you to know what must have been done.

Once you councilors got that 21-page document, the Mayor vanishes from the picture. He has no standing, no say on the matter from then on. Once his 21-page document gets filed into the records, that is what becomes law (if it passes). No further dialogue can be had by the Mayor.

So you see, the words printed in the reorganization document by the Mayor is what goes into the record - not what he says in his dialogues to the council with his 10,568 words. So you see, all the words were superfluous. The public couldn't put in a word for their position on the issue.

Though this may sound disjointed, the truth of the matter is I am not pro or con on the issue, for or against what the ordinance is for. My function is to see that the Attorney General's Office is notified further clarification of just what part of the laws are being broken in creating this reorganization plan. My recommendation is, do this issue legally, right, and proper. The people

have been hurt with this dictatorial action; the people have been cheated of their legal rights.

There is no rush. Kill this monster and come back with the law legally and properly proposed.

The most important failure to understand is that this proposed reorganization plan is the reason for the 90-day delay before becoming law. It is because a reorganization plan is referendable. We, the people, have the last say. We can create a referendum against the issue at hand.

How can the Mayor suggest that you councilors rush this through? This is not an emergency. The Mayor shall not take any action until the 90-day period has expired. This is required by law.

Councilors, wake up. You make the laws and pass the laws, not the Mayor.

Thank-You

Valentine R. Moreno
15 Florida Drive, Agawam

Local Children Receive Smoke-Free Christmas Party

To The Editor:

Congratulations to the Polish American Club of Feeding Hills for the wonderful (smoke free-clean air) Christmas party given to the children this year.

You are to be commended for your thoughtfulness of these youngsters.

J. Seay
Agawam

Bondi's Stench Hits Town Council Floor; Council Wants Action

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The solution to the 17 year-old problem of the stench emanating from Bondi's Island lies in the hands of the Agawam Board of Health, according to Springfield lawyer David Shlansky.

At the Monday, December 19th meeting of Town Council, Shlansky said the town's Board of Health has the authority to impose regulations to control the foul odors emitted by the Springfield Wastewater Treatment Plant on Bondi's Island because it is located in Agawam.

Massachusetts law allows communities to control operations generating air pollution within their boundaries.

Shlansky submitted to the council a proposed Health Regulation that, if adopted by the town's Board of Health, would prohibit air pollution including (but not limited to) gas, fumes, mist, odor, smoke and vapor "in such concentrations and duration as to unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property of any person."

Under Mass. General Laws, the town could fine violators of anti-pollution regulations \$5,000 for the first day in violation, and \$10,000 a day for each subsequent day in violation, Shlansky said.

Shlansky appeared before the council in an attempt to enlist its support in his battle to force Springfield to correct the problem that forces area residents indoors to avoid the stench hanging over their homes during the summer months.

The council unanimously agreed to send a resolution originally proposed by Councilor Walter Balboni to its Solid Waste and Recycling subcommittee for review.

The three-member committee (Thomas Ennis, Robert Danie, and Balboni) plans to meet with Shlansky as well as members of the Board of Health in early January, according to Ennis (Chairman).

SEE BONDI'S - Page 10

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 5, 1995 at 7:45 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Guidetti for a Revised Grading Plan on Glendale Road Extension.

By Order of Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board

Published: December 22, 1994

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 5, 1995 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear petition of Aspen Square Management for a Repetition to the Agawam Board of Appeals.

By Order of Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board

Published: December 22, 1994

LEGAL NOTICE

FRAN'S RESTAURANT

37 SOUTHWICK ST. FEEDING HILLS



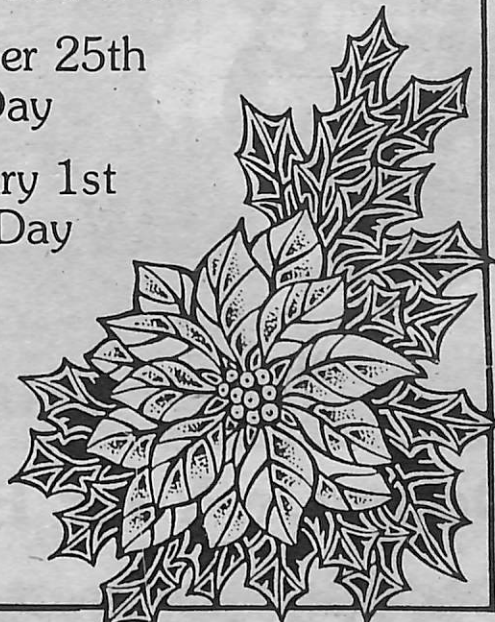
**Merry Christmas
&
Happy
New Year**

We Will Be Closed

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day

Sunday, January 1st
New Year's Day

786-2252



Happy Holidays To You And Yours



**Warmest Wishes
During This Very
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Senator Linda J.
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713 Main Street Agawam Center
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Carlton (100 ft.) - \$4.29
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Fire Wise

Have Two Home Exits In The Event Of Fire

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Fire! In your home? No, you think. But, what if it did? Would you and your family know what to do? Would they react safely?

In 1987, the year for which the most current fire statistics are available, 4,660 deaths occurred in residences in the United States.

The primary problem surrounding this high home fire death rate is the belief by individuals that they won't have an accidental fire. So they aren't prepared when a fire occurs, and react improperly when a fire does occur. Family members should plan their actions ahead of time in the event their homes are stricken by a fire.

- Install and maintain smoke detectors; at least one on each level, and one outside each bedroom area.

- Every occupant should know two ways out of

each bedroom; a primary exit (usually the door) and a secondary exit (the window) should the doorway be blocked.

- For primary exit escapes, make sure everyone knows to crawl out on their hands and knees below the smoke. Placing a cloth over their nose and mouth may also reduce smoke inhalation.

- Some family members may need assistance escaping, such as infants, small children, and the elderly. Assign "helpers" in advance so that, in the event of a fire, everyone will know what is expected of them.

- For second- and third-story window escapes, install folding chain escape ladders. They may be stored in a box by the window for quick access.

- Determine an outside meeting place. Make sure everyone is familiar with its designation.

- Most important—practice the plan! Not only during the day, but also at night. Time the evacuation and evaluate your home fire escape plan. Don't wait until a fire occurs to find out that a window is stuck shut.

- Make sure everyone knows not to attempt to extinguish the fire or grab valuables.

- Once all family members are outside at the designated meeting place, if possible, an adult should go to a neighbor's house to telephone the fire department. Memorize your fire department's emergency telephone number (911), and have it posted on your phones and the neighbor's phones.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

BONDI'S - from Page 8 ..

While he was unsure how long it would take the committee to return the resolution to the council, Ennis said, "We've got to be ready for the spring." Ennis said residents usually begin to call councilors with complaints about the odor when the weather warms up.

Council President James Taylor suggested sending the resolution to the committee so that information provided to the council by Shlansky could be incorporated for the council's consideration. Taylor said he wanted to ensure "a good quality package to bring to Springfield and to our Board of Health."

Balboni Blasts Springfield

Balboni blasted Springfield's attempt to avoid responsibility for the odor problem by calling it an "Act of God."

"That infuriates me," Balboni said. "They've gone full circle and now they're blaming the Almighty. He has enough problems without being accused of the Bondi's Island deal."

Shlansky told the council that all the experts he has contacted agree that the solution to the problem is to put a cap over the treatment plant. Shlansky estimated it would cost \$20 to \$30 million to fix the odor problem, but he said reports that the cost of solving the problem would triple sewer fees to users were "alarmist."

Shlansky said the steady stream of revenue derived from the 300,000 people from seven area communities using the sewage treatment facility would ensure the ability to obtain municipal bonding for the costs of fixing the problem.

"The source of revenue is not going away," Shlansky said. "People are not going to stop using their sewers."

In response to questions from Councilor Jill Simpson regarding health concerns that could be caused by the emissions from the plant, Shlansky said, "I don't want to alarm anybody, but no study of airborne emissions coming out of the plant has been done."

Town Has Authority To End Problem

Shlansky said that while the town could ask the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study, "You have the authority to put an end to the problem even before you get the results of testing."

Shlansky said he would be willing to do anything the council asked to work toward a solution to the problem.

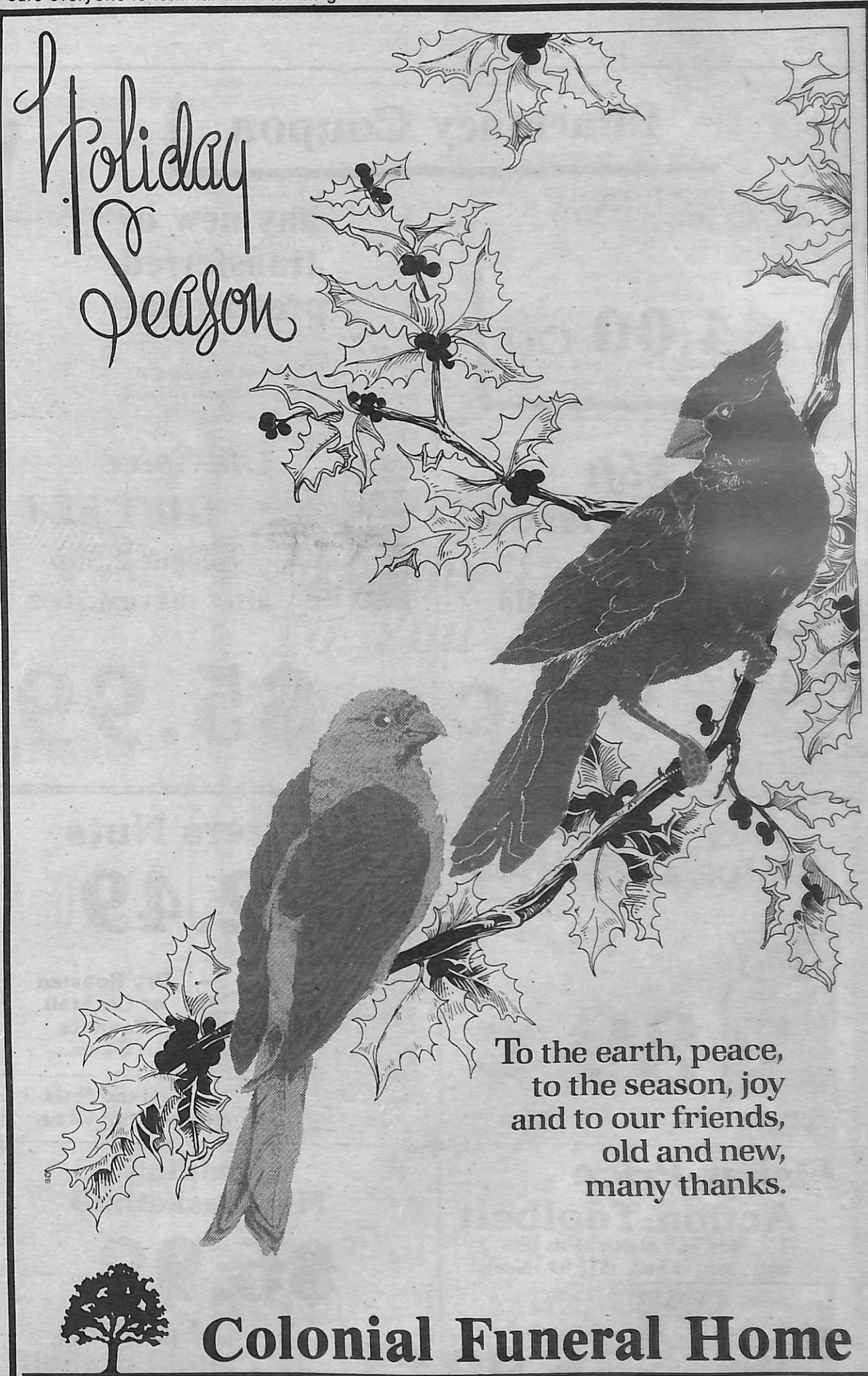
"They (the councilors) were very open to the merits and the substance of the issues," Shlansky said.

According to the scenario Shlansky presented to the council, the Agawam Board of Health would be required to publish the new regulations controlling air pollution for two weeks before a public hearing on the matter could be held. Approval from the State Department of Environmental Protection would then be needed before the new regulations would have the force of law.

"This would be a slam dunk to fix the situation," Shlansky said.

Shlansky predicted that the State Department of Environmental Protection, which is sensitive to political pressure, would approve air pollution regulations proposed by the Agawam Board of Health and backed by the "presumptive weight" of the Town Council expressing the will of the people of Agawam.

Please remember we do not publish next week. We will be holding limited office hours next week



Holiday Season

To the earth, peace,
to the season, joy
and to our friends,
old and new,
many thanks.

Colonial Funeral Home

985 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001
733-3625

The Forastiere Family

Agawam Obituaries

Henry Fessler, Jr.

Henry Fessler, Jr., 77, of 51 Liberty Street, Feeding Hills, died Friday, September 16, 1994, in Mercy Hospital, Springfield.

He was a 45-year employee of the American Bosch Co., working as a tool maker and retiring from the company's experimental laboratory.

He was born in Springfield and was graduated from Agawam High School. He also attended American International College.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills and belonged to its original Holy Name Society.

He was a member of Bosch's 25-Year Club, the Agawam Square Dance Club, the Hampden Square Dance Club, and the Swiss Club of Feeding Hills.

He leaves his wife of 53 years, the former Emilia Davilli, and a daughter, Deborah S. Fessler of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The funeral was held Tuesday, September 20, 1994 at Colonial Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. Transportation Fund, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Vera D. Marotte

Vera D. (Lagunowich) Marotte, 82, of 11 Stanley Place, Agawam, a 10-year time clerk for the Buxton, Co., died in Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She retired in 1975. She previously worked for the former WICO Electric Co. in Springfield, and the former Monarch Life Insurance Co. of Springfield.

She was born in Great Barrington, lived here most of her life, and was a graduate of the former High School of Commerce in Springfield.

She was a communicant of St. Ann's Church in West Springfield.

She leaves three brothers, John G. of Wilbraham, Nicholas M. of Agawam, and Alexander of Springfield.

The funeral was held at the Agawam Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Oak Grove Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside for Families and Children, 2112 Riverdale Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Charles Rutkowski

Charles Rutkowski, 72, of 156 Suffield Street, Agawam, a 40-year aeronautical mechanic, died in Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He formerly worked for United Technologies and its Pratt and Whitney Division in East Hartford, CT. He also worked for Flight Enterprises in Connecticut and at Westover Air Force Base for the government. He retired in 1981.

Born in Springfield, he was an Army Air Forces veteran of World War II. He lived 30 years in Agawam.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Springfield, and was a member of the Jan Sobieski St. Joseph's Society.

He leaves his wife, the former Phyllis Powenko; two nieces and a nephew.

A sister, Alice S. Rutkowski, died in February. A private funeral was held at Kozikowski Funeral Home and in the church, with a private burial in St. Stanislaus Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church, 334 Franklin Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Beatrice L. Blood

Beatrice L. Blood, 87, of 22 Tom Street, Feeding Hills, and formerly of Elm Street, Pepperell, Massachusetts, died at the Apple Valley Continuing Care, Ayer.

She was the widow of Ralph S. Blood.

She was born in Townsend on October 2, 1907, daughter of the late George L. Batchelder. She was a former member of the Community Church of Pepperell, the Prescott Grange of Pepperell, the Community Church Workers Guild, and the Pepperell Women's Club.

She is survived by four daughters, Nancy A. Williams of Leominster, Shirley A. Blood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Priscilla E. Stewart of Hudson, New Hampshire, and Ellen H. Bellows of Feeding Hills; a sister, Mrs. Blanche Harris of Pepperell; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services were held at the Community Church. Burial was in the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Mason, New Hampshire.

The Hamilton Funeral Home in Pepperell was in charge of the arrangements.

Julia R. Rewis

Julia R. "Jay" (Langone) Rewis, 43, of 8 Sutton Place, Agawam, a receptionist at Coopers and Lybrand in Springfield, died at home.

She previously worked for Valley Real Estate for five years. Born in Springfield, she moved here in 1983. She was a 1969 graduate of Commerce High School. She was a communicant of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, and a member of its Women's Auxiliary. She was a member of the Daughters of the Nile, and Eastern Star.

She leaves her husband, Randall Rewis; a stepson, Shawn Rewis of Jackson Gap, Alabama; her mother, Mary (Tesini) Langone of Agawam; three brothers, James L. of Agawam, Ciro R. of Feeding Hills, and Anthony of Chicopee; and two step-grandchildren.

The funeral was at Tazzini Funeral Home, and in the church, with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield 01104 or the Open Pantry of West Springfield, 1023 Main Street, West Springfield 01089.

Margaret G. St. John

Margaret G. (Circosta) St. John, 71, of 172 Almon Avenue, West Springfield, died at home.

She worked at the Pioneer Valley Packaging Co. for more than 10 years and retired in 1989.

Born in Agawam, she lived here for most of her life. She was a communicant of St. Ann's Church.

She leaves her husband, Francis St. John; two sons, David F. of Agawam, and Joseph F. of Springfield; a daughter, Donna St. John of West Springfield; three brothers, Joseph and George, both of Agawam, and Silvestro of West Springfield; two sisters, Rose Oppedisano of Springfield and Jennie Pirog of Agawam; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery.


SEE OBITUARIES - Page 12...

Holiday Sale

Sparkling Diamond Jewelry
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Friday, December 23rd, 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Happy Holidays from Ron Hamel and family

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OBITUARIES - from Page 11...

Alvin H. Jacobs

Alvin Harold Jacobs, 73, of 79 Forest Hill Road in Feeding Hills, a welding engineer for many years, died at home.

He was employed by the Ebtac Corp. of Agawam and previously worked for the Buehler Corp. in Indianapolis, Indiana. Born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, he was raised in Duquesne, Pennsylvania, and was a graduate of Duquesne High School.

He also graduated from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, where he belonged to many honorary societies. He lived in East Hartford, Connecticut, and in Indianapolis before coming to Feeding Hills in 1976.

He was president and life member of the National Welding Society in Indianapolis and was chairman of the Indiana Chapter of the American Welding Society. He was an Army veteran and was discharged with the rank of sergeant. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association and the Elks Lodge in Springfield. He was a member of the Congregation Agudas Achaim of Westfield.

He leaves his wife of 50 years, the former Desiree M. Lewin; a son, Jan T. of Orlando, Florida; two daughters, Jeannine K. Choquette and Jamie M. Roy, both of Westfield; a sister, June R. Landers of Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was at the Colonial Funeral Home, and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam 01001, or to Pioneer Valley Hospice, 570 Cottage St., Springfield 01104.

D. Paul Coto

D. Paul Coto, 76, of 75 Hanward Hill, East Longmeadow, a 38-year design engineer at Pratt and Whitney, a division of United Technologies in East Hartford, Connecticut, died in a local nursing home.

He retired in 1984. He was born in Feeding Hills, lived in Springfield, and resided here the past 34 years. He was a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston. He was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and was also a member of the Spellman Lodge of Masons, the Melha Shrine Clown Unit, and the Chicopee Lodge of Elks. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving with Gen. Patton's Third Army, and was in the Battle of the Bulge.

He leaves his wife, the former Evelyn Vaughan; two daughters, Cynthia A. Greenwood of Duxbury, and Deborah J. Steiger of Columbus, Ohio; two sisters, Ruth Donais of Agawam, and Helen Stansfield of Boca Raton, Florida; and four grandchildren.

The funeral was in the church. Burial is private and at the convenience of the family in Hillcrest Park Cemetery. Hafey East Longmeadow Chapels are in charge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Melha Shrine, 133 Longhill St., Springfield 01108, or St. Mark's Organ Fund, 1 Porter Rd., East Longmeadow 01028.

Shirley Wrenn

Shirley L. (Brook) Wrenn, 69, of 98 Corey Colonial, Agawam, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was a retired 17-year hematologist at the former Springfield Hospital (now BMC), and retired in 1987. Born in Springfield, she was a Navy veteran of World War II.

She lived here for 18 years, and worshipped at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield. He husband, Thomas G. Wrenn, died in 1988. Mrs. Wrenn leaves two daughters, Carolyn B. Wrenn of Agawam, and Dayde L. Wrenn of Seattle, Washington; a brother, Earl of Buffalo, New York; a sister, Violet Moore of East Longmeadow, and four grandchildren. Another daughter, Marlene Wrenn, died in 1978, and a granddaughter also predeceased her.

The funeral was in the church, with burial at Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield. Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pediatric Oncology Center, in care of BMC, 759 Chestnut St., Springfield 01199.

Eleanor F. Mandeville

Eleanor F. (Bencivenni) Mandeville, 73, of 88 Harvey Johnson Drive, a retired employee with the former General Fibre Box Co. in West Springfield for many years, died in Baystate Medical Center.

Born in West Springfield, she lived in the area all her life. She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam and a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in West Springfield.

Her husband, George Mandeville, died in 1979. She leaves a son, James W. of Granby; a daughter, Joyce Graves of Agawam; two brothers, Robert Bencivenni of Westfield and James Bencivenni of West Springfield; five sisters, Alice Demoracski, Beverly Bencivenni, and Dorothy Buoniconti, all of West Springfield, Mary Fortin of Enfield, and Madeline Simpson of Agawam; and six grandchildren. Another son, Richard J., died in 1994.

The funeral was at the Colonial Funeral Home, and in the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 57 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

Albert J. Bessette

Albert J. Bessette, 74, of 11 Downing Way, Suffield, Connecticut, a retired 38-year employee in the accounting office at the former Westover Air Force Base, now reserve base, in Chicopee, died in Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

After retirement, he worked at Hampden Fence Co. in Agawam. He was born in Springfield, lived in Agawam, and moved here in 1986. He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving with the 8th Air Corps.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, and was a fourth degree member of the

Archbishop Williams Council Knights of Columbus of Springfield. He was also a member of the American Legion Post of Feeding Hills, and a member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

He leaves his wife, the former Gloria Coursey; a brother-in-law, Albert J. Coursey of Manchester; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral was at the Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home, and in the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Felician Adult Day Care, 1333 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082, or to Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT 06078.

Helen T. Blanchard

Helen T. (Flittner) Blanchard, 75, of 57 Meadowbrook Manor, a registered pharmacist and the owner of the former Flittner's Drug Store, died recently at home.

She ran the store for more than 30 years, until its closing in 1968. She also worked at other pharmacies.

Born in Boston, she lived in Springfield before moving here 15 years ago. She was graduated from the former Hampden College of Pharmacy.

She was a past president of Friends of the Senior Center.

Her husband, Robert D. Blanchard, died in 1970.

Mrs. Blanchard leaves two daughters, Aileen Semanie of Feeding Hills and Theresa B. Gallerani of Agawam, and five grandchildren.

He son, Robert D. Blanchard, died in 1964.

The funeral was at Colonial Funeral Home and St. John the Evangelist Church, with burial at St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may go to the Pioneer Valley Hospice, P.O. Box 51946, Springfield, 01151-5946.

Christine M. Rivela

Christine M. (Rohan) Rivela, 47, of 658 Barry Street, Agawam, died in Baystate Medical Center. She taught school one year in Hana, Maui, Hawaii, and also at St. Stanislaus School in Chicopee.

Born in Springfield, she was a 1965 graduate of Chicopee High School. She received her bachelor of science degree in education from Westfield State College in 1969. She later moved to Agawam and was a member of Bethany Assembly of God Church.

She leaves her husband, Arnold Rivela; a son, Matthew; a daughter, Jennifer Rivela, both at home; her stepfather and mother, Edward and Adella (Gruszkas) Strycharz; a brother, Walter, all of Chicopee, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held in the church. Burial will be at Springfield Street Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge.

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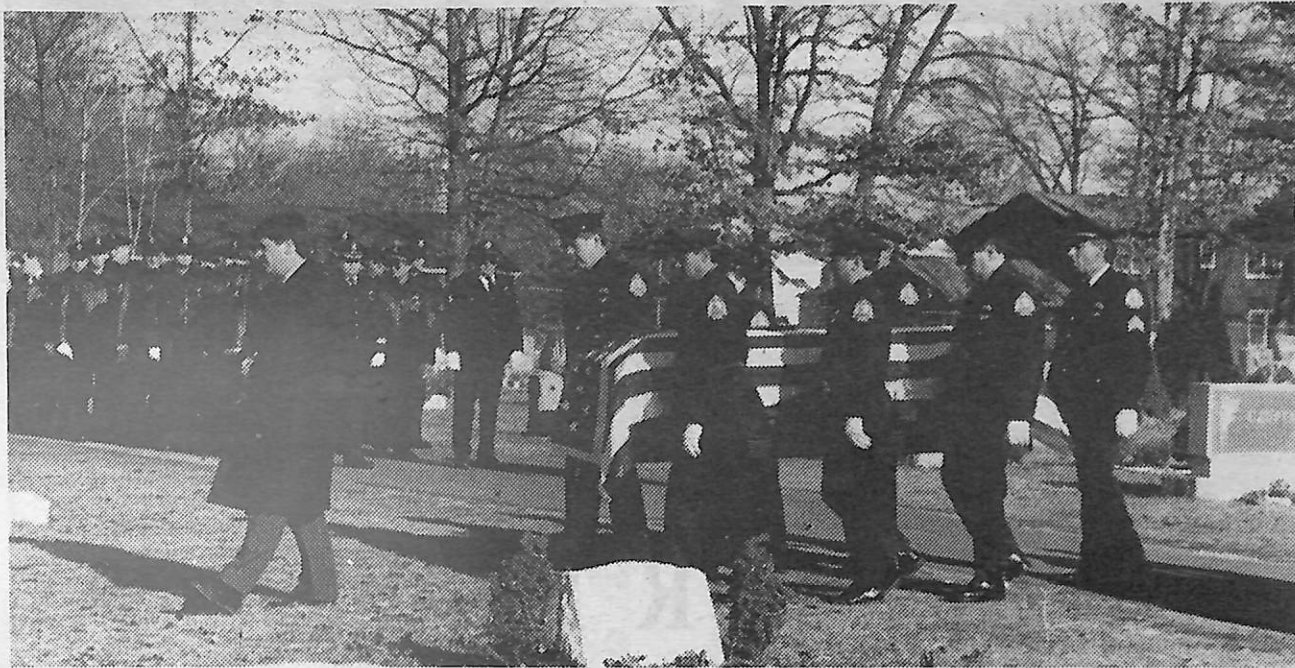
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LED BY POLICE CHIEF ROBERT CAMPBELL (left) and Sergeant Al Longhi (right), members of the Agawam Police Department march into the Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM POLICE OFFICERS served as pallbearers for the burial of Police Officer Ben Moore at the Springfield Street Cemetery. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM POLICE SERGEANT Donald Loncto (left) and members of the Police Honor Guard at the Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills for the burial of Officer Ben Moore. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Police Dept. Honors Ben Moore At Funeral Services

by Officer Wayne Macey
Agawam Police Detective Bureau

As Christmas nears and the year draws to a close, thoughts turn to the sights and sounds of the holiday season. Our celebration at the Police Department will be tempered with the sadness of the loss of one of our brothers.

Officer Ben (Benji) Moore lost his nearly two-year battle with lung cancer on his birthday, Sunday, December 11th. He had just turned 58 and had served the town of Agawam for 23 years.

Ben's dedication, loyalty, and friendship were evident in every aspect of his personal and professional life. He was admired for his ability to take command of tense situations and diffuse them with his voice and his attitude.

He would draw a very generous "line in the sand," and no one would feel the need to cross it. Although he spent some of his early years on the detective bureau, Ben was more widely known for his exploits as motorcycle officer on the traffic bureau. None of us in blue ever had to wonder where Ben was, he was always by our side.

We will miss him more than I can possibly put into words. He was "A cop's cop."

20 Good Way To Get Your Kids On Drugs

by Officer Wayne Macey
Agawam Police Detective Bureau

The following is a list, compiled by educators for use as part of the D.A.R.E. curriculum. The list was formulated to demonstrate to parents that they often contribute to the reasons behind their child's negative behavior.

In a world where single parents are fast becoming the rule rather than the exception, and in the home where both parents must work to make ends meet, the family unit is taking a back seat to other considerations.

Consequently, we as parents do the following:

1. Never eat together as a family.
2. Never have family outings which occur weekly, monthly, or annually that they can look forward to as a family unit.
3. Talk TO your children, not WITH them; never listen.
4. Punish your children in public and never praise them or reinforce their positive behavior.
5. Always solve their problems, make their decisions for them.
6. Leave the responsibility of teaching morality and spiritual training to the schools and the church.

SEE MACEY - Page 14...

Happy 40th Birthday Paul Sieracki



Love,
Sharon, Allan & Family

Very gentle. Very affordable.



Stephen Jacapraro, DMD

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Looking Back...

Compiled and edited by
David C. Gallano

DECEMBER 1973

DECEMBER 28th - EPA GIVES CITY, AGAWAM MORE TIME ON SEWER PACT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has extended the deadline for Springfield and Agawam to conclude a contract for this town's participation in the \$56 million regional sewage treatment plant on Bondi's Island.

Town Manager James Westman revealed today the EPA has given Springfield until February 23rd to finalize the contract.

The federal agency has given Springfield \$40 million towards construction of the facility. However, release of the monies is dependent upon the city's securing a contract with all participating communities, according to Westman.

DECEMBER 31st - POLICEMEN 'HONOR' TOWN MANAGER

The International Brotherhood of Police Officers announced today that Town Manager James D. Westman has won the "worst town manager in Massachusetts" award.

Westman replied by calling the award a "certain distinction" and expressed the hope that police unions would show more maturity in 1974.

EXCERPTS FROM 1973-1974 TOWN REPORT

TOWN MANAGER

The year 1973-1974 was a year of challenge and change for the Town of Agawam. January saw the change in form of government from the traditional Town Meeting-Board of Selectmen to the Council-Manager. According to Town Manager James D. Westman, most of the officials were now appointed rather than elected.

The legislative body, the Town Council, meets several times a month rather than several times a year. For the first time, all of the town's operating agencies and advisory agencies were brought under the supervision and direction of one individual, the Town Manager.

A Senior Center Study Committee was appointed. As a result of their report and efforts, with the Council's cooperation, we were able to obtain a commitment from the state for financial assistance in constructing a new Senior Center.

The state had mandated that all cities and towns would now operate on a fiscal year budget and, in this initial stage of the change from calendar year to fiscal year, the year would be 18 months.

TOWN CLERK

The following is the report on vital statistics recorded for the 18-month period beginning January 1, 1973 and closing on June 30, 1974, by Town Clerk Edward Caba:

BIRTHS—521; MARRIAGE INTENTIONS—493; MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED—489; MARRIAGES—527; DEATHS—367; FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RECORDED—490; TERMINATIONS—151; BUS. CERT. RECORDED—153; DOG LICENSES ISSUED—Males, 1,681; Females, 324; Spayed females, 1,259; Kennels, 31 - TOTAL, 3,264; SPORTING LICENSES ISSUED - 4,864

Ted Dynia Receives "Citizenship Award"

At a recent meeting of Town Council, Ted Dynia of Agawam received the Town of Agawam's "Citizenship Award." He was awarded with a plaque which bore the following inscription:

"In recognition of his dedication of time, talent, energy and ideas to improve the quality of life in the Town of Agawam."

In 1957, Ted Dynia started the drive for our Housing Project.

We salute you, Ted!

PLEASE remember that our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We do appreciate those who bring in their articles on Monday. Thanks.

MACEY - from Page 13...

7. Never let the children experience cold, fatigue, adventure, injury, risk, challenge, experimentation, failure, frustration, discouragement, etc.

8. Threaten your children; i.e., "If you ever try drugs or alcohol, I'll punish you."

9. Expect your children to get "A's" in school in all subjects.

10. Always pick up after them and don't encourage them to accept responsibility.

11. Discourage your child from talking about their feelings; i.e., fear, anger, sadness, etc.

12. Be overprotective and don't teach your child

the meaning of the word consequence.

13. Make your child feel that their mistakes are sins.

14. Put your child off when they ask "Why?" and tell them, "Because I said so."

15. Lead your child to believe that you are perfect and infallible.

16. Keep your home atmosphere in a state of chaos.

17. Never tell them how much you love them and never discuss your feelings with them.

18. Never hug them or display affection in front of them.

19. Always expect the worst and never give them the benefit of the doubt.

20. Don't ever trust them.

PLEASE REMEMBER that we do not publish next week. Our next deadline is Tuesday, January 3rd.

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3 lbs. (approximately 80 cookies)	\$25.00
5 lbs. (approximately 130 cookies)	\$35.00
10 lbs. (approximately 250 cookies)	\$75.00

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Holiday Egg Nog Coffee A Seasonal Favorite

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**Happy Holidays & Thank You
From Mike & Dana**



Families

Local Postmasters "Arrested" By MDA



FEEDING HILLS POSTMASTER Maureen Price and Southwick Postmaster Priscilla Silkey were "arrested" recently by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The MDA refused to let each postmaster out of protective custody until they had called friends for bail money to be donated to the MDA. Placing Mrs. Price in cuffs is Jamison Sanders of the MDA. Advertiser News

photo by Jack Devine.

West Side Toastmasters Looking To Increase Club Membership

The West Side Toastmasters have received recognition for their outstanding membership building accomplishments.

Toastmasters International of Mission Viejo, California presented the Phoenix Award to the West Springfield group for bringing their club membership from nine to 21 since July of this year.

This rare award recognizes a group's ability to "rise out of the ashes" and is presented to clubs which are able to increase their membership from a single number to 20-plus.

Toastmasters is a nonprofit international organization which is dedicated to the development of effective communication and public speaking skills and has nine clubs here in Western Mass.

The West Side Toastmasters is open to people from any of the Springfield area communities and from all walks of life. Meetings are held two evenings per month and are open to the public with no obligation to join the organization.

For more information on Toastmasters, contact Public Relations Officer Bill Corbett at 732-5108.

Polish Club Has Oldies Dance Set For January 21st

If you like that old time rock and roll, if it's the kind of music that just moves your soul, mark your calendars now for the eighth annual Operation Friendship "Oldies Dance" to be held on Saturday, January 21, 1995 at the Polish Club in Feeding Hills.

DJ "Dancing Dave" will start rocking and rolling at 8:00 p.m. for an evening of non-stop dancing until midnight.

There will be door prizes and a raffle. Tickets are available for \$6 in advance (please call Kathy Cassanelli at 789-1255) or \$7 at the door.

For all the local news, you turn our pages each week

"Coffee Hour" For Jack Kunasek Slated For December 29th

A "Coffee Hour" will be held on Thursday, December 29th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School Cafeteria to honor Jack Kunasek on his retirement from the Town of Agawam.

All are invited to come and wish him well.



BABY OLIVIA K. WHITE

Baby Olivia White Born On Oct. 11th

Dan Viens announces the birth of his sister, Olivia Katherine. Olivia arrived happy and healthy on October 11th at the reasonable hour of 5:18 p.m.

Proud parents are Randy and Caroline White. Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. William T. Walsh, all of Agawam.

From feeding to diaper duty, Dan has mastered it all!

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Season's Greetings



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One hour or next day service only. 35mm & 110 C41 process only.
Cannot be combined with any other special or coupon.



Darcy Davis Has Tapes Of Former Musicals At Agawam High

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

The most unusual of gifts is being offered to local residents by Darcy Davis of 1215 Main Street, Agawam, music instructor and director of the Agawam schools from 1956 to 1990.

Copies of two videotapes that he had made of AHS musical shows produced between 1957-1976 are being offered to the public without charge.

Davis warns modestly that the videotapes do not have professional quality, as they are the result of his own years of learning about photography, recording, editing, and production. He considers them "crude" but an important bit of memorabilia for persons interested. He asks that anyone wishing the tapes purchase a blank videotape and bring it to his house with specific written instructions of what they would like on the tape and he will produce it for them (without charge).

The main videocassette compiled is called HIGHLIGHTS and contains portions of every show between 1957 and 1976 produced at AHS. Some of the early shows are sparsely represented as few scenes were photographed, but some photos were provided by parents and most of the accompanying music is that played and sung by the high school students of that year.

The musicals and years are:

1957 - *The Count and the Co-ed*

1958 - *The Fortune Teller*

1959 - *The Wizard of Oz*

1960 - *Best Foot Forward*

1961 - *Li'l Abner*

1962 - *Annie Get Your Gun*

1963 - *Bye, Bye Birdie*

1964 - *Bells Are Ringing*

1965 - *Do Re Mi*

1966 - *The Music Man*

1967 - *Oklahoma*

1968 - *South Pacific*

1969 - *How to Succeed in Business Without Really*

Trying

1970 - *Carousel*

1971 - *The Pajama Game*

1972 - *The Sound of Music*

1973 - *My Fair Lady*

1974 - *Camelot*

1975 - *Dates and Mates*

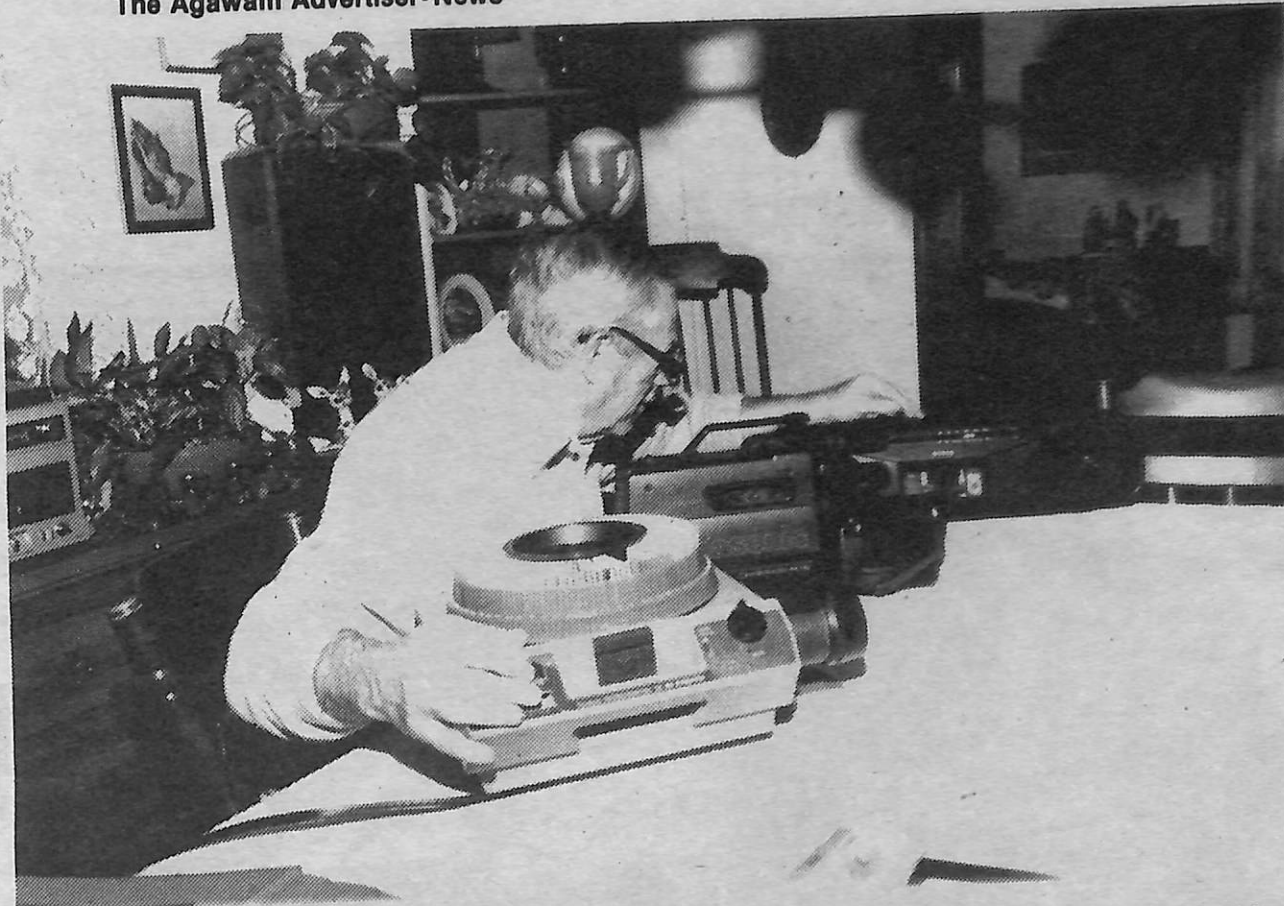
1976 - *Yankee Doodle Dandy*

Davis joined the AHS staff as instrumental music instructor in 1956, and that year the school presented *The Pirates of Penzance* and there are no pictures from that show. Musicals were attempted the next year, and after 1957 shows grew more elaborate, ambitious, and detailed. *The Count and the Co-ed* (1957) had a cast of 12 students, a small four-page program, and was staged for one night.

"It was so much work," Davis said. "About 300 people saw it. We eventually went to two nights, a matinee, and double casts."

Many departments of the school cooperated with art projects, costumes, lighting, printing, etc. Literally hundreds of people participated, as well as various faculty and some professionals. The program for *Yankee Doodle Dandy* in 1976 had 16 pages and 350 pictures, as well as highlights of shows from the preceding years.

SEE DARCY DAVIS - Page 17...



FORMER AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DIRECTOR Darcy Davis reviews old slides of musicals at the school. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



A SCENE FROM OKLAHOMA, staged in 1967 by Agawam High School, and directed by Darcy Davis.



A SCENE FROM OKLAHOMA, the musical staged in 1967 by Agawam High School, starring Holly Gibson (right) and Greg Toczko.

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Sun. 12 - 8 PM



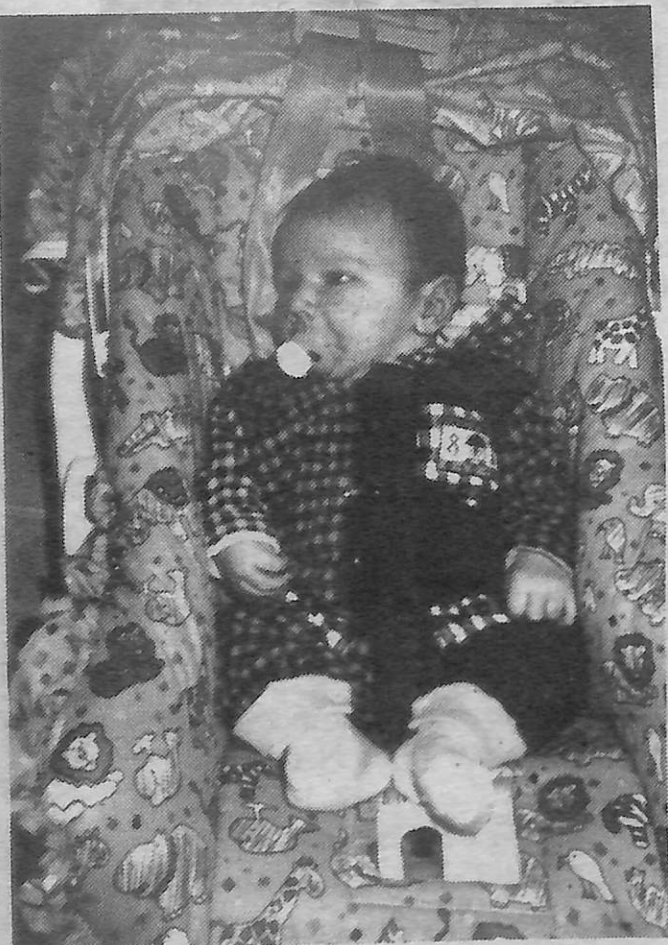
BABY CARLY CRONIN

Baby Carly T. Joins Cronin Family

Tom and Gina (Ferraro) Cronin of Feeding Hills are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Carly Taylor Cronin, on Saturday, November 5, 1994 at 2:02 p.m.

She weighed six pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Sarah Ferraro of Feeding Hills and Joseph and Patricia Cronin of Springfield.



BABY MICHAEL CHADERJIAN

Chaderjian Family Welcomes New Baby Boy, Michael

Welcome, baby Michael!

Michael R. Chaderjian was born October 28, 1994 to Scott and Lisa Chaderjian of 29 Tina Lane, Feeding Hills.

Michael was welcomed home by big brother Christopher.

Paternal grandparents are Myron and Lorraine Chaderjian of West Springfield. Maternal grandparents are Robert and Catherine Maxton of Westfield.

DARCY DAVIS - from Page 16...

Discussing Technical Problems

Wishing he had a camcorder in the 1960's, Davis discussed the technical problems he encountered in updating the material for the videotapes.

He remembers people and details from every year, including the AHS band being chosen to represent Massachusetts in a states' band competition as part of the premiere of the movie *The Music Man* in Madison, Iowa. The band was raising money for the trip when Wally Beach, an owner of Storowton Tent Theater in West Springfield, let Davis present *Annie Get Your Gun* as Storowton's first show of the season, with proceeds going to the Iowa trip.

There was a double cast for *The Wizard of Oz*

and on opening night, both Dorothy's were sick. One girl entered the hospital, he recalls, and former student Barbara Hastings left a sick bed to play Dorothy on both nights.

Davis is a man of many interests, most of them musical. He is doing a video on lesser-known composers and their music; collecting data for a book for the Drum Corps Hall of Fame, of which he is affiliated; and has a collection of sheet music.

He is also transferring much of his information to computer. He would like to form a singing group for "oldie" songs and make tapes for nursing homes, etc.

Hoping that the high school tapes will provide happy memories, Davis is offering them not just to music department alumni, but all alumni, parents, faculty, or anyone interested.

For all the hometown news, townsfolk turn our pages every week - AAN.

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60 months

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Annual Percentage Yield*
6.00%

A 15 month CD, minimum deposit \$2,500.00. An ideal vehicle for either individual saving or an IRA investment.

Rates are effective November 30, 1994 for a limited time only and are subject to change. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal of funds. Accounts must remain open for the minimum time specified to avoid early withdrawal penalty. The APY is accurate as of November 30, 1994.

* Effective annual yield assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for time specified.

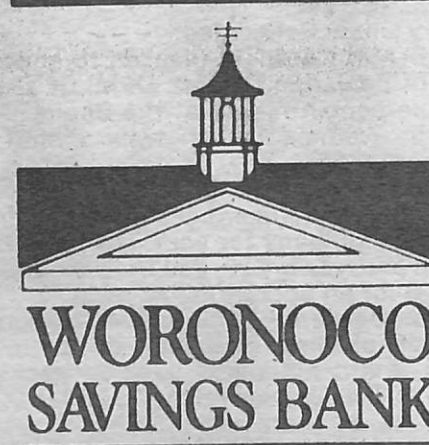


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Agawam Senior Center's January Calendar

Monday, January 2nd: Senior Center closed.
Tuesday, January 3rd: 9:00 a.m. SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders). By appointment.

Tuesday, January 3rd: 1:00 p.m. Free blood pressure check. No appointment needed.

Tuesday, January 3rd: 1:00 p.m. Movies via VCR projector.

Wednesday, January 4th: 9:00 a.m. Podiatry with Dr. Dickert. Call his office for an appointment.

Friday, January 6th: 9:00 a.m. Free diabetic screening. By appointment.

Saturday, January 7th: Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 9th: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Back by popular demand ... "Cards For Fun" with Janice (for cribbage and pitch).

Monday, January 9th: 1:00 p.m. Bingo.

Tuesday, January 10th: 11:30 a.m. Birthday and anniversary celebration. By reservation.

Tuesday, January 10th: 1:00 p.m. Movies on the big screen.

Wednesday, January 11th: 1:30 p.m. Golden Agers' Chapter One meeting.

Thursday, January 12th: 9:00 a.m. Podiatry with Dr. Salem. For appointment, call 737-2360.

Friday, January 13th: 9:15 a.m. Weldon Center Hearing Van. Free screening (by appointment). Call Senior Center.

Saturday, January 14th: Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 16th: Senior Center closed for Martin Luther King Day.

Tuesday, January 17th: 9:00 a.m. SHINE (by appointment). Call Senior Center.

Tuesday, January 17th: 1:00 p.m. Free blood pressure check. No appointment needed.

Tuesday, January 17th: 1:00 p.m. Movies on the big screen.

Wednesday, January 18th: 1:30 p.m. Golden Agers' Chapter Two meeting.

Thursday, January 19th: 10:00 a.m. ASGA (Agawam Senior Games Athletes) meeting.

Saturday, January 21st: Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 23rd: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. "Cards For Fun" with Janice (cribbage and pitch).

Tuesday, January 24th: 1:00 p.m. Movies on the big screen.

Tuesday, January 24th: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Free legal consultation with Attorney Teryl Deegan. For appointment, call 789-2928.

Wednesday, January 25th: 1:30 p.m. Golden Agers' meeting (Chapter One).

Thursday, January 26th: 9:00 a.m. Foot care nurses. For appointment, call Dot at 567-1023 after 4:00 p.m.

Friday, January 27th: 1:00 p.m. Agawam Chapter AARP meeting (Room no. 5).

Saturday, January 28th: Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Computer Classes:

There is room available for a few more students (any level) in the popular computer class under the direction of Ken Alexander, our computer wiz. Please call the Activities Department for more information at 786-0400, ext. 242.

Here's One For The Ladies:

It's not too early to show your interest in a golf clinic, which is the first step to a "Ladies Golf League." While we're at it, let's think of entering the Massachusetts Senior Games (if only for the experience and—best of all—for "the fun of it").

Please call the Activities Department (Sandra Smith) to get your name on the list for the clinic—786-0400, ext. 242.

Podiatry Clinic Scheduled:

The Senior Center is pleased to announce the return of Benjamin Dickert, DPM. Dr. Dickert will schedule appointments at the Senior Center for the first Wednesday of every month starting January 4, 1995.

Dr. Dickert accepts Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross, and most insurances (and he will bill your insurance company for you). The charge for non-covered patients is \$20; call Dr. Dickert's office at 736-3225 for an appointment.

Attention Bowlers—Ten-Pin And Candlepin:

Ten-pin bowling has been on a "roll" since August, and candlepin is back on track ... where are you? The Agawam Senior Center bowling is open to all, 50 years and over.

Ten-pin bowling is held at "Games & Lanes," Walnut Street Extension, on Mondays at 5:00 p.m., and is only \$1 per string (at this time). Monday bowling is a casual, no-competition, let's-just-have-fun group.

A "summer league" for ten-pin bowlers is on tap for '95. An organizational meeting will be sometime in May. The name of the league will be "The 50-Plus League." It will be mixed and is scheduled to be on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Candlepin bowling has been available to our seniors for a number of years, and there is always room for new participants.

For more information, please call Activities

Director Sandra Smith at 786-0400, ext. 242.

(P.S.: Ten-pin bowling is one of many competitive sports in the Senior Games Olympics, both State and National. Candlepin bowling is acceptable in the State level competition only. The 50-Plus League is the perfect opportunity to prepare yourself for the "Games.")

Agawam Senior Center "Melody Band" Update:

The Agawam Senior Center (Sandra Smith) organized a senior band in 1990, with several musicians answering the call. Since 1991, the band has travelled to various Granges, nursing homes, hospitals, and clubs throughout the Greater Springfield/Agawam area.

The band has seen many changes along the way, with musicians coming and going, namely:

Jim Kallipolitis, on drums (stayed until spring 1994); Dan DiDonato, one of the original musicians; Thelma Nickerson, selected to sing her own inimitable renditions of her songs; Jim White, on keyboard/organ; "Tib" Walsh, on guitar; Lillian Meyer, on piano; and Bobby "K," on percussion.

At the present time, the band has had a full December calendar; it has already performed on December 9th, 10th, 14th, and 18th, and one more remaining performance for this month has been scheduled for December 30th.

The following musicians have been faithful for many years:

Darcy Davis, trumpet; Paul Brusseau, violin and fiddle; John Brusseau, guitar; Arthur Brunell, bass guitar; and Evelyn O'Melia, piano. Thelma is back with the band after a medical leave, and they were so glad to welcome her back.

Notice—if anyone would like to join the group, notify Sandra Smith. There is an immediate opening for a drummer.

The band has taken many directions; at present, they are considered a "dance band."

"Cards For Fun" With Janice:

Back by popular demand is "Cards For Fun." Instruction in cribbage and pitch in on the agenda, with those popular tournaments at the conclusion of each.

Scheduled time is Mondays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sign-up time is NOW, and space is limited.

Call 786-0400, ext. 242 (Sandra Smith, Activities Director).

December Birthdays Celebrated:

Best wishes to all of our seniors who are celebrating their December birthdays—Jessie

Fuller, Maria Jarry, Louise Mattoon, and Anna Bissonnette.

Birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated on the first Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise specified). Advance reservations are required; call 786-0400, ext. 242.

Ole—We're Going To San Antonio:

Can you feel the excitement? It's in the air. You can almost hear the sound of the applause as it echoes through Alamo stadium ... the result of MORE THAN 32,000 hands clapping in unison as senior athletes from 48 states, Canada, and the District of Columbia join in welcoming one another to the 1995 U.S. National Senior Sports Classic at the Celebration of Athletes.

"Whole Grain Total" is more excited than ever about the 1995 classic, where we hope you will join us for a week of competition and comradery—not to mention a great time to be had by one and all.

(Excerpt from USNSO Newsletter '94)

Meanwhile, on the local level, the Agawam Senior Games Athletes are all "revved up" on fundraising projects to defray expenses for the '95 U.S. National Senior Sports Classic V, which will be held May 17th through the 24th in San Antonio, Texas.

Any resident 50 and over who would like to join the Agawam Senior Games Athletes (ASGA), either as an athlete or as an associate member, is cordially invited to attend any of the meetings which are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Senior Center at 10:00 a.m.

For further information, you can call Vi Prez (President) at 786-3164, or the Senior Center Activities Department, 786-0400, ext. 242.

"Evita" Update:

The musical "Evita" is coming to town. A MATINEE is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 1995 at 2:00 p.m. Dinner is tentatively scheduled for "Spaghetti Freddie's" (on your own).

"Evita" is directed and choreographed by Ken Urmston. The music is by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with lyrics by Tim Rice.

The winner of seven Tony Awards (including "Best Musical"), this international hit takes you to Argentina and brings you into the life of Eva Peron, the second wife of Argentine dictator Juan Peron.

The price of the show is \$27.50. For more information, call 786-0400, ext. 242, Activities Department.

Country Flowers & Gifts

501 Springfield St.
 Feeding Hills, MA 01030
 786-7563

For The Person That Has Everything,
 We Can Help...
 A Little Something Special
 For A Neighbor Or Friend

We Have The Three Nationally Advertised Teleflora Arrangements,
 Or We'll Make Something Special Just For Your Needs

We Also Have Beautiful Poinsettias, Silk Arrangements,
 And Much More To Choose From
 Come Browse And Receive A Complimentary Gift From Us

Wishing You
 A Very Happy Holiday
 From Diane & Barbara

P.S.: Thank You To All Who Made Our 10th
 Anniversary "Open House" A Great Success

Daily Delivery (Springfield Area)
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Extended Holiday Hours
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Agawam, MA
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Southwick, MA (413) 569-0137



Westfield, MA
(413) 562-7311



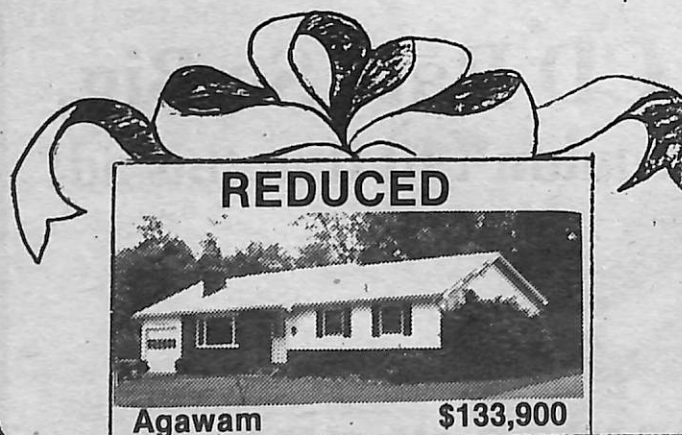
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from all of us at

MOLTA REAL ESTATE



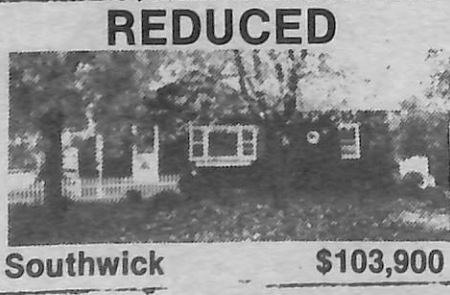
Southwick \$134,900



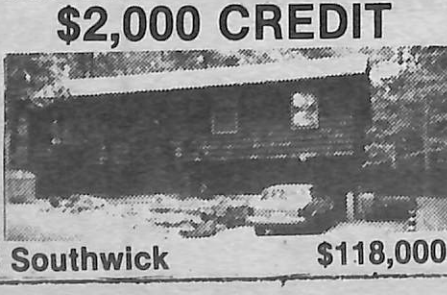
Agawam \$133,900



Enfield \$124,900



Southwick \$103,900



Southwick \$118,000



West Springfield \$118,690

Women's Club Assists Needy



AGAWAM WOMEN'S CLUB MEMBERS Faith Freeman, Monique Coman, Elaine M. Smith, and Claire Barry prepare a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family from the many items donated by the club's members at their October meeting. The group meets at the Captain Charles Leonard House from September to March. For further information about the club, please call 786-3091.



HOPE CHAMPAGNE & SEAN MONTGOMERY

Hope Champagne To Wed Sean Montgomery

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Nadeau of 124 Longview Circle, Ludlow, announce the engagement of her daughter, Hope Marie Champagne, to Sean Charles Montgomery, son of Charles and Lynn Montgomery of 76 Barbara Lane, Feeding Hills.

The bride-to-be graduated from Chantilly High School and has an associate's degree from Holyoke Community College. She is currently working as a chiropractic assistant in Chicopee.

The groom-to-be graduated from Agawam High School and has a degree from M.C.D.I. as a physical therapy assistant. He is currently working at Bickfords Convalescent Home in Windsor, CT.

The couple are planning a December 1995 wedding at St. Michael's Church in Brattleboro, Vermont.

6.50%

Annual
Percentage
Yield

14 Month CD

**A CD Rate So Big,
we couldn't fit it in this ad!**



New England Bank

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Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Minimum deposit \$1,000. This is a limited time offer.

Enjoy The
Timeless
Beauty Of
The Season

Love, laughs, joy and
contentment...
Christmas and you
are a natural.



**The Staff Of La Mirage Offers
Its Customers Best Wishes For
A Happy Holiday Season!!!**

La Mirage

Hair Design & Nails

Juniper Ridge Shops

339 North Westfield Street

Feeding Hills

(413) 789-4220

Seaman Brian P. Crowley Completes Basic Training Course For Navy

Navy Seaman Recruit Brian P. Crowley, son of John J. and Mary L. Crowley of 63 Doane Ave., Agawam, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

During the eight-week program, Crowley completed a variety of training which included classroom study, practical hands-on instruction, and an emphasis of physical fitness. In particular, Crowley learned naval customs, first aid, fire fighting, water safety and survival, and a variety of safety skills required for working around ships and aircraft.

Crowley and other recruits also received instruction on the Navy's core values - honor, courage, and commitment; and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct. Crowley joins 55,000 men and women who

will enter the Navy this year from all over the country.

Men and women train together from their first day in the Navy just as they do aboard ships and at shore bases around the world. To reinforce the team concept, Crowley and other recruits also were trained in preventing sexual harassment and ensuring equal opportunity.

Even as the naval service gets smaller over the next few years, highly motivated young people like Crowley are still finding an opportunity to improve their knowledge and education as they become part of the most highly technical naval force in history.

This year alone, the Navy will have more than 57,000 job openings and opportunities, most of which include guaranteed training.

Crowley is a 1994 graduate of Agawam High School.



AIRMAN DAVID KARAM

Nat'l Guard Airman David Karam Finishes Basic Training

Air National Guard Airman David J. Karam has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Karam is the son of Joan B. and Gene M. Karam of 80 Simpson Circle, Agawam.

He is a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School.

Pick Designated Driver During Holiday Season

During the holidays, the Auto Club of Pioneer Valley urges drivers to think designated driver—and put your thoughts into action.

The Auto Club of Pioneer Valley recommends that a designated driver be chosen from among those who plan to drive to a party or establishment where alcohol will be served.

It's easy to be a designated driver. All it takes is a promise not to drink any alcohol during the outing and provide a safe and sober ride home for those with you. It's a concept that's gaining more and more acceptance across the country, according to Jeanine Keyes-Plante, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Auto Club of Pioneer Valley.

"There is greater public consciousness today when it comes to alcohol. In fact, alcohol-related traffic fatalities declined from 57 percent of all crashes in 1982 to 45 percent in 1992," she said. "A few years ago, no one thought much about drinking at a party and then driving home. But things are different now. More and more people are using the designated driver concept to help prevent traffic tragedies, particularly during the holidays.

"A program is only as successful as the support it receives," she continued. "So, it's up to you. Request that local bars and restaurants encourage the designated driver program. Support the program in establishments you patronize. Respect a driver's decision not to drink. Most important—think designated driver yourself."

Auto Club of Pioneer Valley is a not-for-profit motor club with offices in West Springfield and Holyoke providing over 90,000 members with travel, financial, and auto-related services.

Agawam Citizens For Life To Meet December 27th

The Agawam Chapter of Mass. Citizens for Life will meet on Tuesday, December 27th at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Police Station community room.

All are welcome.

For more information, please call 789-4117.

Come and Join Us at OLIVE OIL'S

For New Year's Eve



*All Entrees are served with soup and Salad, Your Choice
Of Baked Potato, Rice Or Ziti With Meat Sauce And A
Complimentary Glass Of Champagne Or House Wine.*

Dinner Menu

Tenderloin Of Beef Marsala	\$12.95
Chicken Bianco	\$9.95
Veal Parmesan	\$10.95
16 Oz. Prime Rib	\$10.95
Jumbo Baked Stuffed Shrimp	\$11.95
Homemade Gnochì Bolognese	\$9.95

Appetizers (All \$4.95)

Lobster Ravioli In A Creamy Alfredo Sauce
Shrimp Cocktail
Stuffed Mushroom Caps
Fried Mozzarella Cheese With Meat Sauce

Soups

Pasta Fagoli
Cream Of Broccoli
Beef Barley

Salad

Garden Salad
Caesar Salad

Regular Hours:
Lunch 11:30 - 2:30
Dinner 4:00 - 10:00
Monday—Sunday

Serving Dinner On
New Year's Eve
4:00 - 10:00

**For Reservations,
Call 789-3773**





KARYN BANAS

West Springfield Woman Seeks "Mrs. Massachusetts Crown"

Karyn Banas of West Springfield has been selected as an official entrant for the 1995 "Mrs. Massachusetts Pageant." Mrs. Banas was chosen from hundreds of qualified applicants to participate as an official entrant by the State Committee.

Mrs. Banas will share in a weekend event at which "Mrs. Massachusetts" will be selected; she will then go on as our state's representative in the prestigious 19th annual "Mrs. America Pageant," which will be nationally televised.

Mrs. Banas works at her family's Proven Mountain Farm, is a horse show judge, and is also a licensed riding instructor. A 1981 graduate of Agawam High School, she is the daughter of Noel E. Brown and Dorothy Blakesley Brown of Feeding Hills.

Mrs. Banas is married to police officer Michael J. Banas, and they have two young children, Nicole and Jacob.

She is very excited about competing in the pageant and has already begun preparations for the pageant, which includes securing sponsors.

For more information about the "Mrs. Massachusetts Pageant," call or write: "Mrs. Massachusetts Pageant," 17 Wilson Street, Suite 11, Chelmsford, MA 01824, (508) 250-1424.

Golden Age Clubs' Calendar Of Events For Month Of January

January 4th: Chapter 2 - Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. with gift bingo.

January 6th: Chapter 1 - Board of Directors' meeting at the Senior Center at 1:00 p.m.

January 11th: Chapter 1 - Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. with a New Year's party and entertainment.

January 18th: Chapter 2 - Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. with a guest speaker ... Mr. Ballard, a representative from SHINE.

January 20th: Chapter 2 - Board of Directors' dinner meeting.

January 25th: Chapter 1 - Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. with gift bingo.

All the local news with us, each week

Cub Pack 75 Visits TV-22



TIGER CUB SCOUT PACK 75 recently visited TV-22. The Tiger Cubs toured the station recently during a 6:00 p.m. newscast. The Tiger Cubs have been very busy with craft projects and also visits to the Agawam Police and Fire Departments. The boys are looking forward to more exciting trips in 1995.

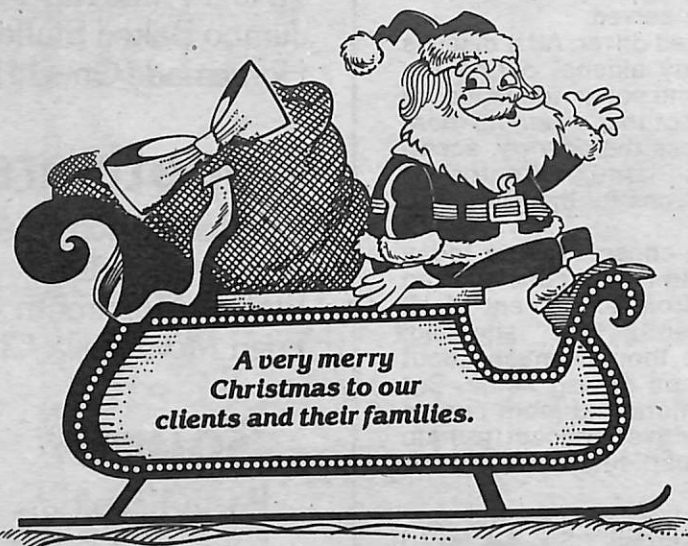
Birthday card ads are \$25 with picture. Our deadline is Tuesday at noontime. We will keep the photo on file until you pick it up (as promptly as possible, please).

Liz Greenway And Staff

Sincerely Thank Their Many Loyal Customers For Another Year Of Patronage And Support In 1994.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Liz Also Extends Her Sincerest Thanks For Your Continued Interest In Her Mother's Health. Your Patience and Prayers Are Deeply Appreciated.



Walnut Street Dry Cleaners And Laundromat

Wash, Dry & Fold / Complete Alterations
339 Walnut Street Extension - Agawam

786-5227

Walnut II Dry Cleaners

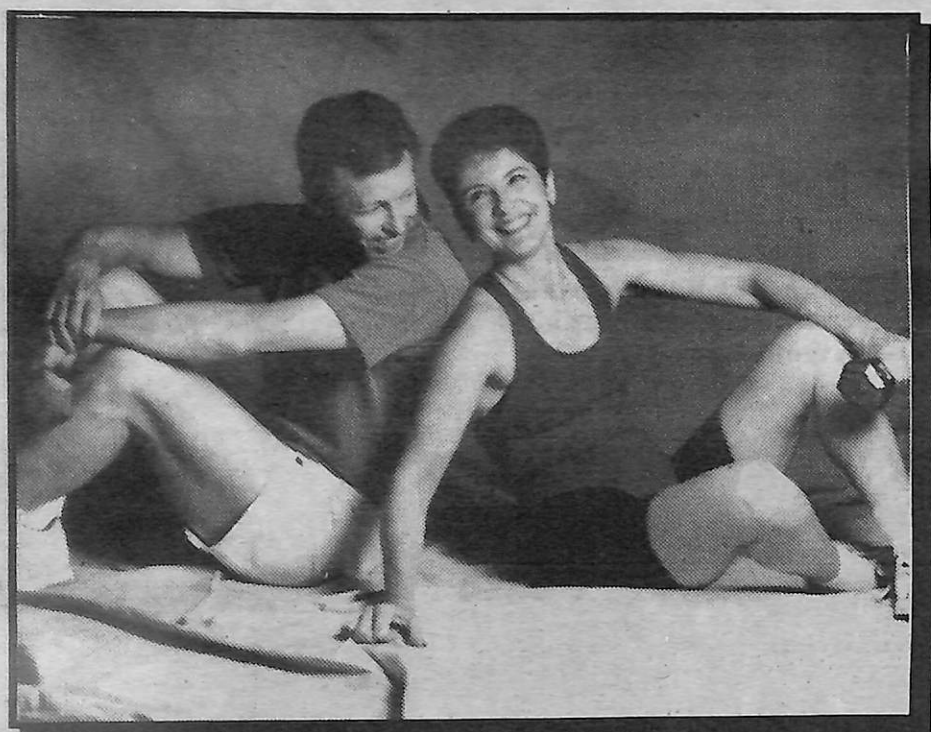
515 College Highway, Southwick

569-0699

Open 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Open
8 Days
A Week

DON'T LET THE HOLIDAYS WEIGH YOU DOWN!



Begin your fitness program
today, before the holidays
weigh you down!

The fitness professionals at
Fitness First will start you off
with a program that will help
you *LOOK* and *FEEL* better,
from now thru the
New Year!

*Your membership comes with our exclusive
30 day money back guarantee!*

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

4 WEEK MEMBERSHIP ... ONLY \$39
6 WEEK MEMBERSHIP ... ONLY \$59

TRY OUT A GREAT CLUB TODAY AT A
SUPER PRICE! MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES
ALL FITNESS FACILITIES.

NOW AVAILABLE! WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT THE RIGHT
WAY? FITNESS FIRST NOW OFFERS A POPULAR WEIGHT
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITH BARBARA VINCIGUERA.
JOIN TODAY AND START LOSING WEIGHT TOMORROW!

OFFERS END DECEMBER 31ST



60 North Westfield Street
• Feeding Hills, MA 01030

(413) 786-1460

Fire Dept. Offers Winter Heating Tips

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating.

The use of the wood burning stove market is growing, space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs.

All of these supplementary heat measures may be acceptable. But they are also a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

KEROSENE HEATERS

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon build-up. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut-off in case the heater is tipped over.

- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (kerosene, coal, or propane, for example) produces deadly fumes.

- Use ONLY the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. NEVER INTRODUCE A FUEL INTO A UNIT NOT DESIGNED FOR THAT TYPE FUEL.

- Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids, stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.

- NEVER fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. Use caution with cold fuel for it may expand in the tank as it warms up.

- Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors).

- Keep young children safely away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a build-up of carbon monoxide.

WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard. To use them safely:

- Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly. Woodstoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces, and proper floor support and protection.

- Woodstoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.

- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.

- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, and unwanted material (or people) from going in.

- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.

- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.

- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.

- Keep flammable materials away from your mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.

- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER CLOSE YOUR DAMPER WITH HOT ASHES IN THE FIREPLACE. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

SEE FIRE TIPS - Page 25...

Nursery School Visits Christmas Tree Farm



KIDS AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER paid a visit to Glen-Gary Christmas Tree Farm on Shoemaker Lane on December 6th. The school is located in the Agawam United Methodist Church. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Check
our
classified
pages

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS At BABBS

Christmas Dance

Wed, Dec. 28, 1994
7:00 - 10:00 PM
Admission: \$4.00

5th - 9th Grades

Featuring: B.J. the DJ and
BURN Records

Lights! Dance Contest! Prizes!

Snack Bar! Video Games!

(No skates allowed)

New Year's Rollerskating Party for Kids!

Sat, Dec. 31, 1994
1:00 - 4:00pm

Admission: \$4.00

Hats, Noisemakers, Balloon Drop!
(Just like Mom & Dad's party)

Roller Skating! Games!

Fun For All!

Call for additional Holiday Hours
Babb's Skating Rink, W. Suffield, CT
(203) 668-7073

\$4.95

"Jolly Old St. Nicholas"
Tin of Assorted Chocolates

\$3.49

"The Night Before Christmas"
Storybook Box

Crown Chocolatier gives a delicious new twist to Christmas traditions.

Better pick up several of these wonderful chocolate gifts that are sure to please. Our "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" collector's tin is filled with 7 ounces of delicious Crown Chocolatier assorted chocolates and "The Night Before Christmas" storybook features a 6-ounce solid milk chocolate Santa.

Surprise!

Your Hallmark Card & Gift Shop

838 Suffield St., Agawam, MA
Rte. 75 at Southgate Plaza
Phone 786-2407

FIRE SAFETY - from Page 24...

- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire, and/or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

FURNACE HEATING

It's important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.

- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

- Inspect the wall and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.

- Check the flue pipes and pipe seams. Are they well supported? Free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.

- Is the chimney solid? No cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.

- Keep trash and combustibles away from the heating system.

OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

- Never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.

- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame (otherwise, the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water of a UL labeled device such as a hand-held dryer for thawing.

- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.

- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

FINALLY...

- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke detector, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

- Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on Home Fire Safety.

For further information, please contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727.

Springfield Symphony Chorus To Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Springfield Symphony Chorus is celebrating its 50th anniversary season this year and is planning a reunion to be held in the spring of 1995.

All former chorus members are invited and the committee is seeking current names and addresses of any members who have not already been contacted.

For further information, please call (413) 736-1960 or (413) 788-4424.

St. Thomas School Seeks Donations

Looking for that special gift to give someone who has everything? Or do you want to give a gift in memory of a loved one?

Or maybe you just feel in the Christmas spirit and want to give a gift in honor of the birth of our Savior, the Christ Child.

Why not consider giving a library book, stage curtain, or student desk and chair to St. Thomas School in West Springfield. These are just a few donations.

There are many more items which could be donated. If you are interested, please contact the school at 739-4131 days, or you may contact Dianne Fontana at 732-2414 evenings or any other St. Thomas School board member.

Check our classified

Susan M. Nadeau Weds Mark A. Christian

On Saturday, October 15th, Susan M. Nadeau and Mark A. Christian were united in marriage at Sacred Heart Church.

The bride is the daughter of John & Helen Walsh of Feeding Hills and the late Arthur W. Nadeau. Mrs. Lenora Debiew of Chicopee is the parent of the groom.

Attending her sister as maid-of-honor was Karen L. Nadeau. Randolph Christian served his brother as best man.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School and Holyoke Community College. She is a registered nurse at WestHills Home Care in Westfield.

Her husband is a graduate of Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical High School and Springfield Technical Community College. He is an operator at the Springfield Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant.

After the honeymoon, the couple made their home in Feeding Hills.



MR. & MRS. MARK A. CHRISTIAN

Peace Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

11:00 a.m. Special Eucharist for Elderly & Infirm
(call 786-6133 for transportation)

5:00 p.m. Family Eucharist with Children's Choir
(nursery care available)

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist with Sr. Choir

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Brief Family Eucharist

"O Come Let us Adore Him"



St. David's Episcopal Church

522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills

Rev. Len C. Cowan • 786-6133

Golden Agers Chapter II Gather For Christmas Party



ATTENDING THE ANNUAL Agawam Golden Age Club Chapter II Christmas Party were, from left - Ruth Silk, Dora Dawson, Helen Bye, Genevieve Juzba, and Ellen Nichols. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE Annual Agawam Golden Age Club Chapter II Christmas Party, from left - Edwin Arnold & Kay Arnold, tickets; Alice Bishop, dinner; Virginia Lake, entertainment; William Bishop, dinner; and Edward Grimes, table reservations. The event was held at Chez Josef. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 26th: Observance of Christmas Day—Senior Center closed.

Tuesday, December 27th: Hamburger, gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, Canadian oat bread, canned apricots.

Wednesday, December 28th: BBQ pork rib, baked beans, cole slaw, pumpernickel bread, mixed fruit, canned prunes.

Thursday, December 29th: Baked chicken leg, sweet potato, peas, whole wheat bread, vanilla pudding with whipped topping.

Friday, December 30th: Minestrone soup, baked fish, rice pilaf, rye bread, canned peaches.

Monday, January 2nd: New Year's Day observance—Senior Center closed.

Tuesday, January 3rd: Pork chop, mashed potatoes, carrots, Canadian oat bread, baked apple.

Wednesday, January 4th: Turkey loaf, baked potato, green beans, whole wheat bread, canned apricots.

Thursday, January 5th: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potato, corn, pumpernickel bread, tapioca pudding with whipped topping.

Friday, January 6th: Seafood salad, egg noodles, mixed vegetables, rye bread, canned peaches.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

[The Senior Center Lunch Menu covers two weeks in this edition because *The AAN* doesn't publish between Christmas and New Year's.]



AT THE ANNUAL AGAWAM GOLDEN AGE CLUB Chapter II Christmas Party, from left - Doris Kellogg, Alvin Kellogg, Jessie Fuller, Jack Coughlin, Louise Mattoon, and Ellie Funai. The event was held at Chez Josef. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Hallmark
KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT

Zoom in for our '57 Chevy!

Bring back the good old days with our 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air ornament, the 4th in the Classic American Car Series. Exclusively from Hallmark.

Surprise!

Your Hallmark Card & Gift Shop
838 Suffield St., Agawam, MA
Rte. 75 at Southgate Plaza
786-2407

Bel-Air, emblems and body design are trademarks of Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Corporation and used under license to Hallmark Cards, Inc.

NEW BINGO!!!!
New Lower Prices

BINGO Small, Friendly Bingo
All Paper
Free Coffee And Tea
Handicap Accessible

Every Tuesday Night
At 7:00 P.M.
Doors Open At 5:00 P.M.
\$1 Admission Only

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE CHURCH
Sheep Pasture Road
Southwick

Ring In The Savings

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

• BEER BLAST •

Coors
Coors Light
Coors X-tra Gold
cans or bottles

12⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Michelob
Reg. or Light
cans or bottles

13⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Genuine Draft,
Genuine Draft
Light
cans

12⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Heineken
and
Amstel

18⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

St. Pauli
Girl

18⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Becks
bottles

16⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Moosehead
15⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Killiams
Irish Red
15⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Molson
cans
14⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Lowenbrau
14⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Miller (cans)
10⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Bud Dry
cans
11⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Fosters
16⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Miller Lite
16 oz. cans
13⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Bud, Light,
Dry Btls.
13⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

Bud
16 Oz. Bottles
14⁹⁹
cs. & dep.

• LIQUOR SPECIALS •

Seagram's
V.O.
1.75L
10⁹⁹
15.99 Minus Mfg. 5.00 Mail-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Seagram's 7
Crown
1.75L
8⁹⁹
12.99 Minus Mfg. 4.00 Mail-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Canadian
Mist
1.75L
8.99
12.99 Minus Mfg. 4.00 Mail-In Rebate on 2 bottle purchase
FINAL COST

Beefeaters
Gin
1.75L
21⁹⁹

Absolut
Vodka
1.75L
21⁹⁹

Tanqueray
Gin
1.75L
21⁹⁹

Johnnie
Walker Red
1.75L
26⁹⁹

Bacardi
Rum
1.75L
12⁹⁹
15.99 Minus 3.00 Mfg. M-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Glenlivet
Scotch
750ml.
19⁹⁹

Early
Times
1.75L
12⁵⁹
14.59 Minus 2.00 Mfg. M-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Captain
Morgan
Spiced Rum 1.75L
13⁹⁹
16.99 Minus 3.00 Mfg. M-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Jim
Beam
1.75L
13⁹⁹

Crown
Royal
750ml.
13⁹⁹

Seagram's
Gin
1.75L
10⁹⁹
13.99 Minus 3.00 Mfg. M-In Rebate
FINAL COST

Smirnoff
Vodka
1.75L
14⁹⁹

Dewars
Scotch
1.75L
25⁹⁹

Southern
Comfort
1.75L
15⁹⁹

Chivas
Regal
750ml.
18⁹⁹

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A TREE WAS PLANTED IN MEMORY of the late Al Christopher, a prominent farmer, civic leader and supporter of good causes, by the Agawam Beautification Committee. From left - Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, Town Planner Deborah Dachos, Beautification Committee member Zoafia Demko, Mrs. Jennie Christopher, Town Council Vice-President George Bitzas, and Beautification Committee members Helen Lawrenchuk and John Zebrek.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Friends In Harmony Perform At Red Door



MEMBERS OF THE RIVERSIDE PARK "Friends In Harmony" group performed at the Red Door Theater on the grounds of Valley Community Church on December 13th. The singing group has been touring the area and continue to delight audiences. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Please remember that we do not publish next week. Our next deadline is Tuesday, January 3rd at noontime.

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Tree Planted For Al Christopher

The Beautification Committee of the Town of Agawam has announced the inauguration of its new tree planting program by dedicating the first tree to the memory of Al Christopher.

Committee member Mrs. Zoafia Demko says it's appropriate that the Committee announce its new tree planting by donating the first tree as a living memorial to Al Christopher, who, during his lifetime, was a strong supporter of the Committee and frequently contributed flowers and gave generously of his time in support of the Committee's work to make Agawam a more attractive community in which to live.

Under this new program, individuals and organizations will be able to donate a tree as a living memorial to an individual, or to a cause or event of their choice.

For a donation of \$110, the Committee will arrange with Elmer Cascio, tree warden, to have it planted in an appropriate place. They will also arrange to have the name of the donor and the honoree inscribed on a plate which will then be installed on a plaque displayed in a public place.

Under this new program, businesses will also be encouraged to participate by sponsoring a tree to be planted in front of their business to replace one previously removed or simply to improve the appearance of their property.

Programs like this are encouraged by various state, national, and private organizations to protect our environment and improve the aesthetics of our communities. Prior to the next spring's planting season, more detailed information will be sent to clubs and organizations in Agawam explaining how they can participate. The Committee will attempt to maintain the \$110 donation fee for as long as trees from the city's inventory are available.

Those wishing more information now, or who may wish to reserve a tree for planting next spring, may contact Zoafia Demko or John Zebryk of the Beautification Committee.

IRS Has Good News For Households

Congress has enacted an income tax law change to increase the \$50 threshold for which household employers must pay employment taxes for their household employees.

Before these changes, anyone who paid a household employee wages of more than \$50 in a quarter was required to file a quarterly report and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes on those wages. The quarterly filing and payment requirements have been eliminated by the new law, and the \$50 per quarter threshold has been raised to \$1,000 per year (an amount that will be indexed for inflation beginning in 1996).

Because the \$1,000 threshold is effective for the entire 1994 year, household employers and their employees who paid Social Security and Medicare taxes on 1994 employee wages of less than \$1,000 are eligible for refunds. Refunds can be obtained one of the following two ways:

SEE HOUSEHOLDS - Page 29...



Up On A Rooftop.

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HELENE GAUDREULT GATES and CHRISTINE GAUDREULT GENDRON

Gaudreault Twins Acquire United States Citizenship

Congratulations to Helene Gaudreault Gates and Christine Gaudreault Gendron on their recent United States citizenship.

Born in Dolbeau, Quebec, Canada, the twins moved to the United States at the age of four with their parents, Rene and Gilberte Gaudreault, formally of 43 Colemore Street, Feeding Hills (they now reside in Naples, Florida).

After graduation from Agawam High School in 1978, they pursued an associate degree in Medical Assisting from Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield. After graduation, both worked in that field employed by area physicians.

Helene is employed part-time by the Agawam Medical Center, and her husband, Ralph Gates, is employed as a Product Manager for Mestek in Westfield. Their children are Scott Ralph and Denise Page, and the family currently resides in Agawam Center.

Christine resides in Feeding Hills with her husband, Attorney Raymond Gendron, who is a self-employed attorney with an office on Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. Their children are Tammi Christine and Tanya Sharon.

Both are eager to exercise their new rights of United States citizenship.



AIRMAN JEREMY K. SPRING

Airman Jeremy K. Spring Graduates Air Force Basic Training

Air Force Airman Jeremy K. Spring has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs, and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Spring is the son of Arnold K. and Irene F. Spring of 26 Yale Avenue, Feeding Hills.

HOUSEHOLDS - from Page 28...

1) Employers can obtain their refunds with interest by filing Form 843, "Claim for Refund and Request for Abatement."

2) Employers who file a fourth-quarter Form 942, "Employer's Quarterly Tax Return for Household Employees," can reduce their liability on that return by the amount of any overpaid household employment taxes.

The fourth-quarter Form 942 Package, mailed to employers in December, will contain special instructions and a simplified version of the Form 843 for use in claiming refunds.

Employees should request reimbursement from their employers for any Social Security and Medicare taxes withheld from their pay. However, employees who are unable to obtain refunds of these taxes from their employers, should file Form 843 and attach a copy of their Form W-2, "Wage and Tax Statement." Employees can obtain a simplified version of the Form 843 after January 1st by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.

Also, Publication 926, "Employment Taxes for Household Employers," and Publication 553, "Highlights of 1994 Tax Changes," will provide more details on how employees can file for their refunds.

Employees who receive refunds will nevertheless receive Social Security wage credits on their 1994 wages. To ensure proper posting of these credits, the new law requires employers (for 1994 only) to issue a Form W-2 to household employees who were paid more than \$50 in any quarter. The fourth-quarter 942 Package and Publication 926 will contain special instructions for preparing these Form W-2s.

Effective in 1995, the law exempts household employment by workers under the age of 18 from any Social Security and Medicare taxes, regardless of how much they earn, unless household employment is the worker's principal occupation.

For 1994, household employers must continue to file the quarterly Forms 942 for any household employees earning more than the new \$1,000 threshold.

For the 1995 tax year, however, household employers will use their Form 1040 income tax returns to report Social Security, Medicare, and Federal Unemployment (FUTA) taxes, as well as any income taxes withheld, for their household employees. The IRS will be developing a new schedule for reporting these taxes on the 1995 Form 1040.

Finally, under the new law, household employers are not required to make household employee Social Security, Medicare, and FUTA tax payments throughout the year until 1998. They are encouraged, however, to either increase their withholding or make estimated payments to avoid a large balance due on these taxes when they file their income tax returns.

Beginning in 1998, withholding or estimated tax payments must be sufficient to cover these taxes; underpayments beginning in 1998 could be subject to estimated tax penalties.

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ADVERTISER NEWS

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Leonidas And Carol Pananas And Staff



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Church News

Roast Beef Dinner At F.H. Congregational



KIMBERLY COUTURE enjoys her roast beef dinner at Feeding Hills Congregational Church thanks to the efforts of kitchen workers Jackie Gilmartin, Chris Mangano, and Rev. Robert Donaldson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



JEFFREY BARCOME enjoys his dessert at the Roast Beef Dinner sponsored by Feeding Hills Congregational Church on December 10th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AT THE FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH on December 10th, Jeffrey Chapman and Danielle Russo eat their delicious roast beef dinners in the church hall. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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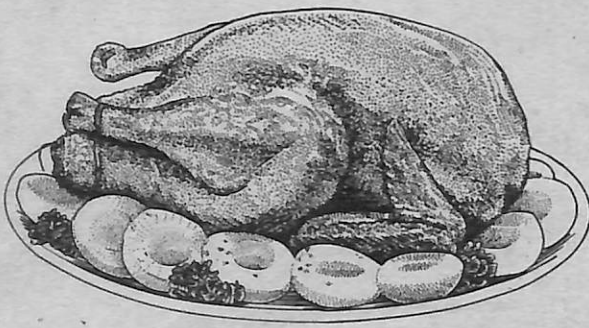
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Whole Boneless Top Sirloins	\$1.99 Lb.
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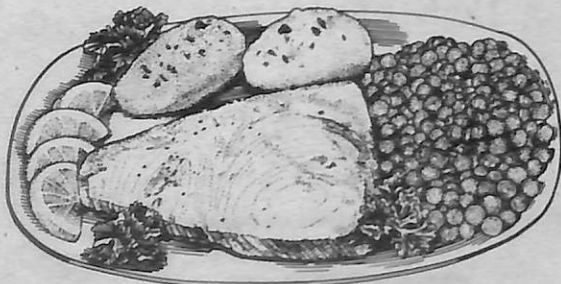
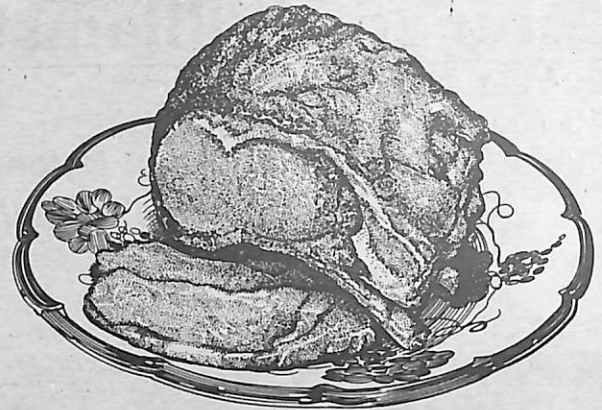
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Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon)	2/\$5.00
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S & R Provolone Cheese	\$2.69 Lb.
Imported Ham	\$2.79 Lb.
Margerita Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Fresh Seafood Salad	\$3.99 Lb.
Hans Kissle Fruit Ambrosia	\$2.39 Lb.

SEAFOOD

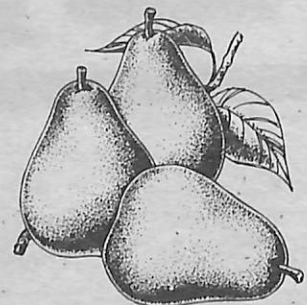
Cooked Tail-On Shrimp (31-40 Ct.)	\$9.99 Lb.
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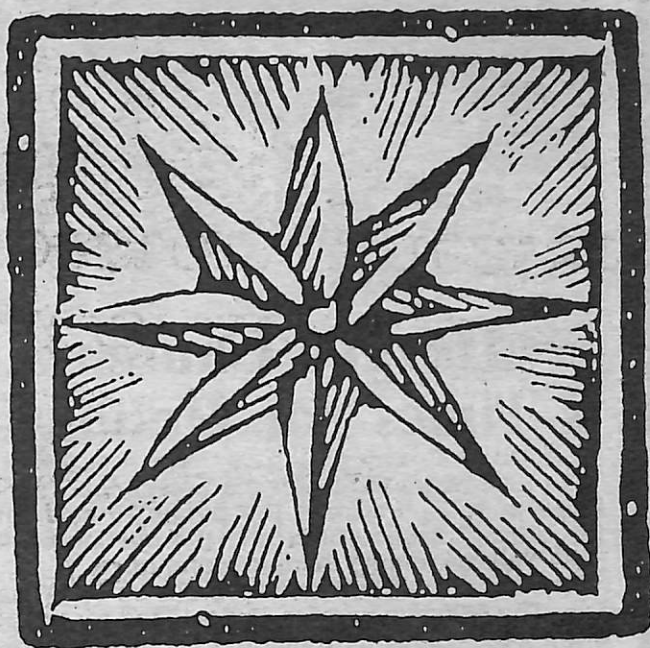
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Church News - continued...

Ham & Bean Supper At Agawam Congregational



NANCY MODZELEWSKI (top photo) brings out more tossed salad and Jerry Hamel adds some seasoning to his favorite dish at the Ham & Bean Supper sponsored by the Agawam Congregational Church on December 8th.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



ON THE SERVING LINE at the Agawam Congregational Church's recent Ham & Bean Supper included, from left - Mary Jane Stuart, Clint Warren, and Carol Allen. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

St. David's Church Announces Schedule & Times For Holiday Services

The members of St. David's Episcopal Church, Feeding Hills, welcome the public to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the coming of the New Year by joining them in worship.

The church will hold two sessions on Christmas Eve. The 5:00 p.m. service is designed for people of all ages (especially children) and will feature a brief Christmas pageant staged by the church's Junior Youth Group, and starring children in grades four and under. The Junior and Cherub Choirs will perform and will lead the congregation in the singing of familiar carols. Child care will be provided for smaller children for the duration of the 1 1/4-hour service.

The 11:00 p.m. service is the traditional "Midnight Eucharist" and will feature candlelight, the Senior Choir, and congregational singing of Christmas carols. The service will conclude about 30 minutes into Christmas Day. The Rector, the Rev. Len Cowan, will speak at both the 5:00 p.m. and the 11:00 p.m. services.

Later on Christmas Sunday, the church will host a 9:00 a.m. Eucharist which will feature carol singing and a brief message by the Rector. People

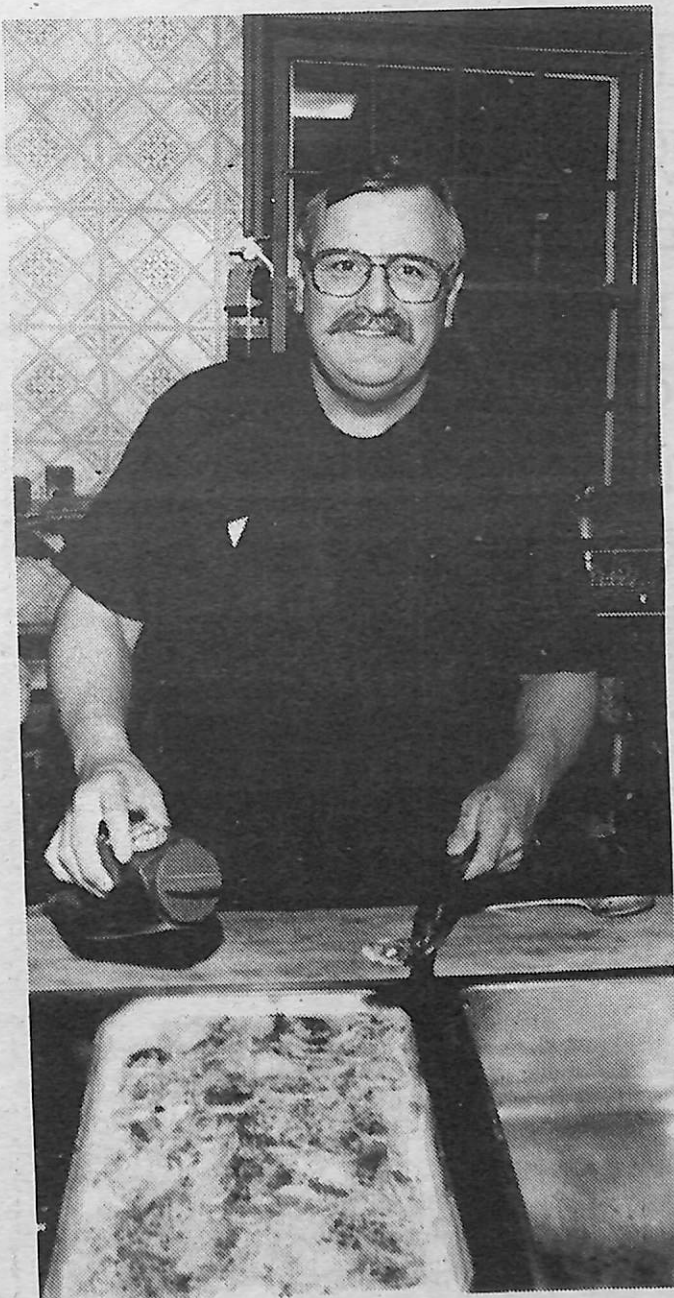
of all ages are welcome to the one-hour service, which will be held in place of the two services normally held on Sundays at St. David's.

A week later on New Year's weekend, St. David's will hold its normal weekend services of the Holy Eucharist: Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday at 8:00 and at 10:00 a.m.

A shortened version of the traditional service of Lessons and Carols will be held at all services, including the 10 a.m. service (which is particularly designed for children and will feature some younger readers).

Also on New Year's Eve, the church will host a service at 8:00 p.m. in celebration of Jesus, King of the Ages. This service of singing, Scripture, a message, and prayer will provide an opportunity to thank God for the year past, and to dedicate 1995 to His glory. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Further information about these and other opportunities for spiritual growth with the people of St. David's may be obtained by calling the parish office at 786-6133.



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Church News - continued...

Christmas Program At St. John's Church



STUDENTS IN ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST Church religious education class put on a play, "When To Celebrate Christmas," which explains the Christmas season in the Catholic Church. Pictured with student actors are Paul Sutton, a parishoner and coordinator of the "Tiny Tim Program" (and famous TV-weatherman); and Mary Pat Clark, the parish director of religious education. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Christmas Services At St. John's Church

Father Howard McCormick, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, would like to remind parish members and friends of the Christmas Services schedule.

On Christmas Eve, there will be a 4:00 p.m. and a 6:00 p.m. Mass; the 6:00 p.m. Mass is the children's Mass. The midnight Mass will be held at MIDNIGHT (this is a change from the previous year).

On Christmas Day, there will be two Masses; one at 9:30 a.m., and again at 11:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church Has Christmas Services

The following is the Christmas Mass schedule for Sacred Heart Parish, a Roman Catholic Church, in Feeding Hills.

Saturday, Dec. 24th: 4:00 p.m., Vigil Mass; 5:30 p.m., Children's Mass.

Sunday, Dec. 25th: 12:00 a.m., Midnight Mass; 7:30 a.m., Mass at Dawn; 9:00 a.m., Mass during the day; 11:00 a.m., Mass during the day.

Welcome. Merry Christmas.

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

Rev. Donaldson will present a brief Christmas meditation this Sunday entitled "What If They Crucified Santa?"

Please join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. This Christmas morning service will be less formal than usual, and children are more than welcome to attend together with their parents.

Nursery care is provided.

All Trustees are asked to attend a special meeting on Thursday, December 29th, at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Harry Flad, from the Stewardship Associates Program, will be our guest.

There will be a Youth Group Pizza Party to usher in the New Year! Older children are asked to come to the church at 3:00 p.m. on December 31st to make pizza for the younger children (who will arrive at 5:00 p.m.).

There will be no Youth Group meetings on January 1st.

On the calendar this week:

* **December 24th:** 6:30 p.m., Family Christmas Eve Service; 11:00 p.m., Traditional Christmas Eve Service.

* **December 25th:** Merry Christmas to all!!!

* **December 28th:** 2:45 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Choir; 8:00 p.m., A.A.

* **December 29th:** 6:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Trustees meet with Harry Flad.

* **December 31st:** Youth Group Pizza Party—3:00-6:00 p.m., 10-Plus Making Pizza; 5:00-6:00 p.m., 4-9 Share Pizza With 10-Plus.

Raffle Winner Has Been Drawn At Valley Community Church

The Women's Club at Valley Community Church is pleased to announce the winner of the raffle held on December 18th.

The winner is PAT BELISLE of Agawam.

Mrs. Belisle received a child's bed quilt entitled "When I Grow Up," which depicts children dressed in various community uniforms. The quilt was completely handmade by the Women's Club members.

The winning raffle ticket was picked by Rev. Stephen Dennehy at the Children's Annual Christmas Party.

Congratulations, Mrs. Belisle!

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Optometrist
Feeding Hills

Church News - continued...

Chicken Dinner At Valley Community Church



MARION BINNENKADE was selling crafts during a chicken dinner at the Valley Community Church in Feeding Hills on December 10th; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Ryan Morgan, 12, uses both hands to enjoy his chicken dinner. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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Church News - continued...

Helping Out With Church Chicken Dinner



HELEN ANDERSON and DOT WELLS were part of the kitchen crew at the December 10th chicken dinner at the Valley Community Church. RELATED PHOTOS ON PREVIOUS PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

The three Christmas Eve services on Saturday evening, December 24th, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, will be a Christmas Pageant (with the children and youth) at 5:00 p.m.; a Carols & Candles Service at 7:00 p.m.; and the traditional Candlelighting Service at 11:00 p.m.

This Sunday, December 25th, it is Christmas Sunday. The Worship Service will be at 10:30 a.m. Reminder—Church School will not meet on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

Start out the New Year with Adults Night Out on Saturday, January 7th, at 8:00 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church for a night of folk singing at their "Coffee House."

Please meet at 7:30 p.m. at the church. For more information, please call the church office, 786-7111.

The Open Pantry of West Springfield received five sweaters, 51 mittens, and 30 caps from the church's Mitten Tree.

Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

Sunday, January 1, 1995, is the First Sunday after Christmas and Epiphany Sunday. Worship Service will be at 10:30 a.m.

The Midweek Service continues on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, January 5th, there will be a planning meeting at 5:30 p.m. for the Jr. High Youth Group.

At 8:00 p.m., there will be a planning meeting for the Club 45 Group.

On Saturday, January 7th, the Jr. High Youth will be traveling to New York City for activities at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

They will serve a meal at a soup kitchen in the lower East Side, then return to the Cathedral to sleep. (Returning on Sunday, January 8th.)

Check our classifieds

Christmas Eve Service Slated at First Baptist

The First Baptist Church will be holding its Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th.

The service will contain many traditional elements: congregational singing of carols of the season such as "Joy to the World" and "Away in the Manger"; and some special music by the choir, including solos of "O Holy Night" by Stephen Bailey and "The New Born King" by Homer Wright.

The message, as presented by Interim Pastor Rev. Harold Martin, will be titled "The Center of the Christmas Drama," based on Luke 2: 8-20.

The Youth Groups of the church will be showing a rarely considered viewpoint of the Christmas

story, as they present a mini pageant based on "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" by Amy Grant. The song and the play share the feelings of Mary, a young, unwed mother who was called by God to carry the Christ child.

The service will conclude with the sanctuary in darkness, except for the light provided by each person's candle.

The First Baptist Church, American Baptist, is located at 760 Main Street (corner of Main and Elm Streets).

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Holiday Greetings

From

Dr. Tami Nelson

And The Staff Of

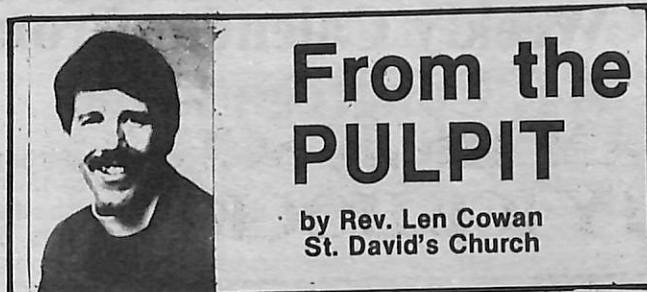
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Church News - continued...



From the PULPIT

by Rev. Len Cowan
St. David's Church

"The Other Christmas Story"

Joseph had a problem. It had to do with Mary, his betrothed. Joseph's problem, from his perspective, was that Mary had been found to be pregnant before they had come together; in other words, not by him. Under normal circumstances, it would mean that she had been unfaithful to her vows of betrothal, and was carrying the child of another man.

Of course, these were not normal circumstances, but Joseph didn't know that yet. So he struggled with his problem, asking himself, "What should I do now? What's the right thing to do? How should I handle this?" Joseph's handling of his problem shows us something about how to handle our own problems; how you and I are to "do the right thing" before God.

In this "other" Christmas story, the story of Joseph as found in Matthew 1:18-25, the Bible states that Joseph "was considering this" (verse 20). He was taking time to think it over, rather than jumping into a hasty action that he might regret later on, such as "divorcing" Mary, breaking off their engagement.

At the beginning of the day, and at the other appointed prayer times, no doubt his decision was in his prayers. One can imagine him pouring out his heart to God, asking what to do. It's also most likely that Joseph searched the Scriptures to find out what to do, reassuring himself from the Book of Deuteronomy that divorcing Mary was the "right" thing, at least legally, and also contrasting this with other Old Testament passages which spoke of God's mercy in response to sin.

And since Mary's situation was no doubt a topic of conversation in a small town like Nazareth, Joseph might have talked it over with some wise leaders, to ascertain what they thought he should do and (more importantly) what they thought God wanted him to do. And at night, as he went to bed, he would most likely offer it up to the Lord again in prayer.

So this was no "snap decision" on Joseph's part; he earnestly sought the Lord concerning the right thing to do, such that even in his dreams he was considering this.

Joseph's earnest seeking was ultimately rewarded, when one of God's angels visited him in a dream and told him what really was the right

thing to do; that he need not fear to take Mary as his wife, for the Child to be born of her was not of man, but of the Holy Spirit; and that He would be the one to save people from their sin.

The Bible promise that God draws near to those who earnestly seek him was proved true: in seeking, Joseph had found his answer. Obedient to this message, Joseph took Mary as his wife, and the rest (as they say) is His-story.

As you and I wrestle with difficult decisions, as we try to "do the right thing," we need to seek the Lord as Joseph did.

—We need to take the time necessary to make our decisions, to allow God time to get our attention, to speak to us. Taking time, making time to consider what we're going to do is most often the first key to finding out what God's will really is.

—We need to pray about our decision-making, asking God to show us what we should do, to make our options as clear as possible. God is concerned about our every action, as well as the big world picture. We can talk to Him about the minute details.

—We can search the Scriptures for basic principles to guide us, or for specific words which will tell us "yes" or "no." Many of our questions will be answered right here, in the plain sense of what the Scriptures says. Whatever our decisions, and however we may arrive at them, our decisions should never contradict the clear directives of Scripture.

—We can and should seek the counsel and support of others, and (in particular) those in the Body of Christ who share our values and our desire to do what God wants us to do.

In all things we should make it our aim to please God not only by what we do or decide to do, but by how we do it. Jesus encouraged us to "seek first the Kingdom of God," and promised us that all that we need, including the answers to questions of what we should do or have, will be provided.

We should never expect to be led by the Lord if we are unwilling to invest the time earnestly to seek Him, to allow Him to speak to us through all the static and bustle of our lives.

But, as we do seek Him, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, our steps will be ordered by the Lord. As we go through the celebration of the birth of Jesus, son of Joseph and Son of God, and as we prepare for the 1995th year of our Lord, may we look to Him to guide our lives, and fulfill His good purposes in us.

God is ready to help those who seek to pursue His Will. He will intervene with His Word and, by His spirit, He will amplify it through prayer, circumstance, counsel, and even experience to show us the way.

God is there for us, as He was for Joseph. He is ready to work with us and in us to accomplish something great, to manifest the power and presence of Christ in us and through us as we follow the guidance that He gives us.

Christmas Services At Ag. United Methodist

Season's greetings from the Agawam United Methodist Church.

We are located at Mill Street, on the opposite side of the Agawam High School.

A manger scene and Christmas carols from chimes at the church wait to entertain you as the star of Bethlehem shines over your presence at the manger at the front of the church yard.

Our thanks go to all our good-wishers, and for the cards that so beautifully conveyed to our members the spirit and good will of Christmas.

Come join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas at our services on Christmas Eve as follows:

—7:00 p.m.: Family Service (along with carols and candlelight).

—11:00 p.m.: Candlelight Service with carols. The Holy Communion will be administered.

Celebrants are The Rev. Reuben Telemaque, Pastor; The Rev. Ann Geer, Executive Director of the Springfield Council of Churches; and Rev. John Geer.

Christmas Morning Service will be on Sunday, December 25th, at 9:30 a.m. The preacher will be The Rev. Reuben Telemaque, Pastor.

All are invited!
"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting Life."

Agawam Church Of The Bible To Meet On Christmas Eve

You are invited to join with Agawam Church of the Bible for a special Christmas Eve service from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, December 24th.

With an emphasis on group participation, the evening will include a mix of readings, prayer, Scripture readings, and music (both traditional and contemporary). The family-friendly service will conclude with the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus," which will be followed by a time of refreshment and fun, sing-along Christmas songs.

This service, as well as the planned New Year's Eve service, will be held at the Faith Bible Church building on Shoemaker Lane in Agawam (a mile west of Chez Josef). Agawam Church will be joining with Faith Bible Church for a Sunday morning service on Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m. at their building on Shoemaker Lane.

Season's Greetings And Happy New Year



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DECEMBER

15	East Longmeadow	H	6:00*
20	Longmeadow	H	7:30*
28	Greenfield	A	7:30
31	Ludlow	A	1:00*

JANUARY

3	West Springfield	H	6:00*
5	Minnechaug	H	6:00*
12	Westfield	A	3:00*
16	Pittsfield	H	12:00*
20	Amherst	A	6:30
24	Amherst	H	6:00*
26	South Hadley	H	7:30*

FEBRUARY

2	Cathedral	H	7:30*
7	Minnechaug	A	4:30*
13	Central	A	3:00
16	West Springfield	A	6:00
25	Westfield	H	2:30*

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ASSISTANT: John Cirelli

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Church News - continued...

Looking Back At 1994 And Looking Forward To Another New Year

by Reverend Robert Donaldson
Pastor, Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Imagine, if you will, a movie in which the main character never appears on the screen. We would begin watching the film, expecting this person to arrive and begin to make an impact. But we would watch and wait in vain. What would that be like?

At this time of year—a time for taking stock and for making new plans—some of us may look back and wonder, for it may be as though we have passed through a year without the chief character within us ever appearing. The words of Rabindranath Tagore may be true for us: "The music I came to sing remains unsung. I have spent my days stringing and unstringing my instrument."

Yet the year is spent. What did we get for our purchase price, a year of our lives? Did we spend it on the things we had planned in our resolutions? Did we squander some, or even, much of it? What did we receive in trade for this irreplaceable year? Was our song in harmony with God's will for us? Was it left unsung? Or did we produce something entirely off-key?

The good news, the cause for our New Year celebration, is that we are about to receive a fresh year of time. It is time in which our chief character may finally appear; time to sing our song; time to give some content to our allotted time, to make it memorable and full.

As we consider the gift of this coming year, may we preface our plans for spending it with a prayer that God may guide us and be foremost in our hearts and minds through each day. We may then look back upon it a year from now and know 1995 as the time of our greatest blessings.

Happy New Year!

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Rehearsing For Church Christmas Pageant



PORTRAYING MARY & JOSEPH, shepherds, angels, animals, stars, and wisepeople are busy rehearsing for our Christmas pageant at the Agawam Congregational Church on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

PLEASE remember that our deadline is every Tuesday at noon. We do appreciate those who bring in their articles on Monday. We open weekdays at 6:30 a.m.

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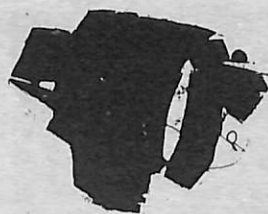
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Agawam





Spotlight On Business

Realtor Mary Piquette Attends 2-Day Course

George R. Yerrall, President of Stearns & Yerrall Realtors, announces that Mary Piquette of the Agawam Sales Office has just returned from attending a two-day course on residential real estate. The course was presented by the Residential Sales Council of the Realtors National Marketing Institute.

RS-205 "Financial Skills for the Residential Specialist" provides the skills and information necessary to analyze the financial aspects of a residential transaction. Topics included are income tax information for the homeowner regarding the tax deductibility of interest, and methods to track the basics in a personal residence.

According to a survey by the National Association of Realtors, buyers and sellers want and need financial advice in this area because the two major reasons people buy homes are for tax and investment purposes.

Other areas addressed in the course include forms that allow the professional to compare a fixed rate mortgage against an adjustable rate mortgage, compute the recapture point in a refinancing situation, and simply and quickly qualify a conventional buyer.

The newly developed RS-205 course is one of a series of courses which lead to the prestigious CRS (Certified Residential Specialist) designation.

Residential Sales courses are presented in various cities throughout the year by the Residential Sales Council of the Realtor National Marketing Institute, an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors. The Residential Sales Council is dedicated to the education of the real estate sales professional.

Mary Piquette is a member of the Greater Springfield Board of Realtors, and holds the prestigious designation of GRI, Graduate Realtor Institute. Mary resides in West Springfield.

Agawam Rotary Helps Salvation Army



AT A RECENT AGAWAM ROTARY MEETING, the club donated toys, gifts, money, and time to Major Dick Bosh of the Salvation Army. Rotarian Raymond Pieczarka of the Rotary Club is chairman of the advisory board for the Salvation Army and has helped to organize the members to donate their time to the local Kettle Program and the Toys for Joy Program. From left - Ray Pieczarka, Rotary; Rosemary Sandlin, Rotary president; Major Dick Bosh, Salvation Army; and Lowell McLane, Rotary program chairman. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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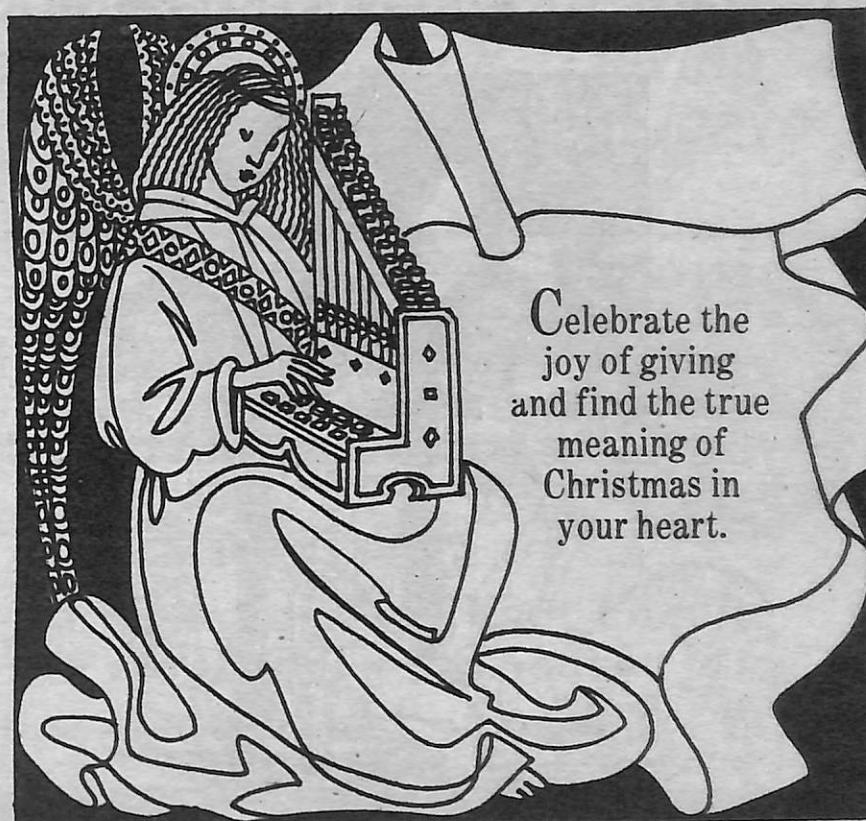
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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Westfield Savings Named Benefactor By Westfield Chamber

Robert T. Kapinos, President of the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce, recently accepted a check for \$1,000 from Donald A. Williams, President of Westfield Savings Bank, designating the Bank as a Founding Benefactor of the Leadership Westfield development program.

The program, which has been established by the Westfield Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with Westfield State College and the business community, has been designed as a leadership development program to benefit the community.

According to Kapinos, "Leadership Westfield will bring together individuals from varied backgrounds to develop new and emerging community leaders who will address the challenges facing organizations in the Greater Westfield area."

The program will select 20 to 25 community leaders who will be brought together for a series of educational seminars focusing on community organizations, their leadership needs, and the development of future leaders.

"We have been greatly impressed with the Leadership Westfield program as outlined by Bob Kapinos of the Westfield Chamber and Ronald Applebaum, President of Westfield State College," commented Westfield Savings Bank President, Donald A. Williams.

"This is an undertaking that is certain to provide extremely valuable leadership training for many of the ambitious and far-sighted young men and women of the local business community. We are pleased to support it and look forward to participating in it," he commented.

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DONALD A. WILLIAMS (left), president of Westfield Savings Bank, presents a check for \$1,000 to Robert T. Kapinos, president of the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce. Westfield Savings is now a founding benefactor of the Leadership Westfield Development Program.

Woronoco Savings To Hold "Open House"

Woronoco Savings Bank Branches will host their annual "Holiday Open House" on Friday, December 23rd, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at all traditional branches, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Big Y in-store branches in Springfield and West Springfield.

Refreshments will be served and Santa Claus will visit the Branches as follows:

Westfield Branches: Main Office, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Little River, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
Southwick Branches: Ames/Big Y, 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.; Grist Mill Plaza, 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.
South Hadley Branch: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Springfield Big Y Boston Road Branch: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
West Springfield Big Y Memorial Avenue Branch: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



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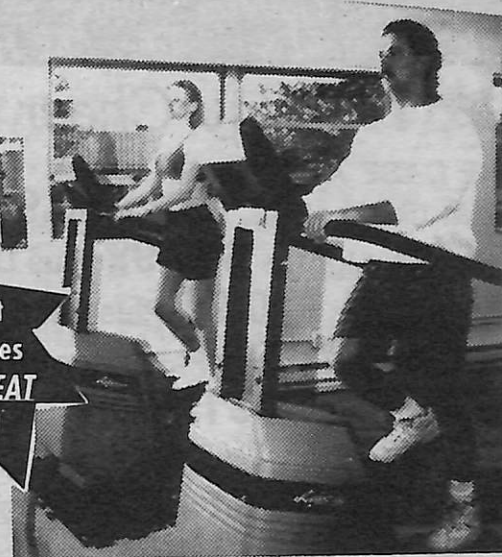
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*Spotlight On Business - continued...***Agawam Chamber & Town Honor Local Businesses**

THE AGAWAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and the Town of Agawam honored two local businesses at its Christmas Breakfast at The Oaks on December 14th. In photo left, Chamber President Kurt Welker of Fitness First (left) and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson (right) hand a town proclamation to David Ratner, owner of Dave's Soda & Pet Food City; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Linda Skole from Chez Josef accepts the award for the business owned and operated by her family. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Century 21

by
John Schuler
Real Estate
Consultant



Newschu Real Estate, Inc.
20 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills

What You Should Know To Be Properly Protected Against Cold, Ice, And Snow

Winters are back with a vengeance. With temperatures already dipping below 20 degrees at this time of year, potential home buyers in the Northeast (many of them *first-time* home buyers) may wonder what they should be looking for when hunting for a warm new home.

One of the first things to investigate when looking at a home is the insulation. Improper insulation can lead to heat loss, frozen pipes, and leakage when ice begins to melt. Many home owners like to see at least six inches of insulation (or equivalent) in the walls, and at least 12 inches in the ceilings. Many home owners are tempted to install even more insulation, but it can become costly. Most modern insulation brands are effective; the "R" value is the most important factor.

Gutters, which most home owners view as an important means of water drainage, can sometimes be a detriment. A frozen gutter causes backup freezing on the roof, which leads to leakage and serious water damage in the home. Heating tape placed around the gutters can help to prevent freezing.

Home owners and potential home buyers should look carefully at windows and door jams—drafts are the leading cause of energy loss in a

SEE REAL ESTATE - Page 44...

For glossy copies of photos in this edition, please contact Jack Devine at 789-0053. If Jack is out, please leave a message.



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ALVIN'S
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Spotlight On Business - continued...**Westbank Receives
An Outstanding
CRA Rating**

A recent evaluation of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance of Park West Bank and Trust Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Westbank Corporation, prepared by the Massachusetts Division of Banks, was rated "Outstanding."

According to Donald R. Chase, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westbank Corporation, "This coveted designation places Westbank in the top 8.9 percent of Massachusetts banks that were evaluated during the past year."

In order to earn an "Outstanding" rating, the bank must be a leader in ascertaining and helping to meet the credit needs of its entire delineated community, including low and moderate-income neighborhoods, in a manner consistent with its resources and capabilities.

Since its inception as an independent, locally owned community bank, Westbank has always been cognizant of the needs of individuals and small businesses and has designed products and services to meet those needs.

Westbank was the first bank in Western Massachusetts to introduce WEST-CHECKS, a non-service charge checking account, and WESTBANK 65, a free checking account for senior citizens.

Presently, the bank's outreach program includes the First-Time Home Buyer Program, the No points/No Closing Cost Mortgage, and low fee deposit accounts established for small businesses.

Westbank continues to be a participant in government-sponsored lending programs that expand housing and economic development opportunities within its local community. Some of these programs are the MHFA (Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency), Massachusetts Business Development Corporation Capital Access Program (CAP), and the FmHA's (Farmers Home Administration) Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan Program.

Westbank also actively participated in development and re-development programs in many of the communities they serve in Hampden County. Westbank currently has eight offices: three located in West Springfield, including the Main Office, and one each in Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Holyoke, and Westfield.

The final assessment of the evaluation concludes that Westbank's CRA efforts are above what might be expected of an institution of its size, and therefore, a CRA rating of "Outstanding" was assigned.

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REAL ESTATE - from Page 43...

home. Windows should be double-glazed and have strong seals. Wooden windows are often preferred to metal because metal transfers the cold into the home.

The basement of a home needs to have proper drainage so that water, snow, and ice pressure will not build up around the home's foundation. Don't forget spring thaw, too. If the house is located at the base of a hill, swales for drainage need to be situated as far away from the foundation as possible. Second only to fire, water damage due to freezing and improper drainage is the real enemy of the home owner.

As your professional real estate agent will advise you, knowing what to look for to determine whether a home is winter-ready is beneficial to

both the potential home buyer and the person who is planning to sell a home. To a professional real estate agent, a home that has been carefully weather-proofed with proper insulation; tight, double-glazed windows; proper drainage; and landscaping to draw melting snow away from a home's foundation, brings a higher selling price.

In fact, many real estate agents often recommend that sellers carefully review their homes with the buyer in mind. If they have a formal inspection done by a professional home inspector before they put the house on the market, they can fix problems before a potential buyer finds them. Those sellers with professional inspection reports might give a copy to the potential home buyer for added confidence and incentive.

(John Schuler is the Broker/Owner of CENTURY 21 Newschlu Real Estate, Inc., located in Feeding Hills, MA [413-789-1117].)

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* APR is based on the weekly average yield on U.S. Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of one year, as of 11/14/94, plus a margin of 2.875%. The initial payment on a 30-year term with a rate of 6.50% for the first year will be \$6.33 per thousand borrowed assuming a 20% down payment. If interest rates increase, the monthly payment will increase. The interest rate will not change by more than 2% in any one year and will not change by more than 6% over the lifetime of the loan. Offering rates are based on loans up to \$350,000 and are subject to change without notice. Owner-occupied, one to four family properties only.

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For Your Health

Lung Association Focuses On Kids During Holidays

Since its founding 90 years ago, the American Lung Association has recognized the toll lung disease can take on children and has worked to educate the public on preventing and treating breathing problems.

This holiday season, the American Lung Association of Western Mass. will focus on children and lung disease during its annual fundraising Christmas Seal Campaign®, which will reach 90,000 Western Mass. homes through December.

"More than 17.4 million American children live every day with breathing disorders," said Mario S. Sakellis, Executive Director. "Donations to Christmas Seals help fund the Lung Association's outstanding education program for children, as well as critical research into finding a cure for asthma and other types of lung disease."

"Our goal this year is to raise \$140,000. Kids will love the Seal this year. It shows a cuddly teddy bear getting his last few stitches from three busy elves," he said.

An integral part of the American holiday tradition, the story of Christmas Seals began in 1907, when the first Seals were printed and sold for a penny apiece to raise money to fight tuberculosis. Over this century, individual donations to Christmas Seals have supported the American Lung Association's education, research, and advocacy programs.

This year, children can help fight lung disease by entering the 1994 Christmas Seals® Kids' Drawing Contest, Sakellis said. "Anyone aged six to 15 can enter. The theme is 'Things that make you feel good at the holidays,' and the winner may become the next national Christmas Seal artist!"

The contest is sponsored by the Triaminic Parents Club; winning designs will be chosen from each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Triaminic Parents Club will donate \$1 (up to \$60,000) to the Lung Association for every drawing entered in the contest.

"Lung disease is the third leading cause of death in America, claiming more than 300,000 deaths each year and can have a devastating effect on children," Sakellis explained. "Children's lungs are not just miniature versions of adult lungs. They need special care because they're especially sensitive to infection and pollution. The lungs are creating millions of air sacs throughout childhood, so early damage can have far-reaching consequences."

In the early part of this century, the Lung Association fought childhood lung disease by pioneering school health education programs. Today, the American Lung Association continues to bring innovative programs to children, teaching them the role air pollution plays in lung health, preventing them from smoking, teaching children with asthma to manage their illness, and explaining lung hazards on the job to future generations of workers.

Asthma now affects more than four million children and is the leading cause of lost school days. In response to the increasing number of children suffering from asthma, which can be fatal, the American Lung Association has developed *Open Airways For Schools*. The program uses interactive, small group lessons to teach elementary school children how to recognize asthma triggers, to relax during an asthma episode, to take medications and use inhalers properly, and to teach their parents what they are learning themselves.

"Open Airways is just one innovative educational program that we have developed to fill an existing gap," Sakellis said. "We continue to reach out to children to help them understand either how to help manage their existing lung disease or what steps to take to protect themselves from getting lung disease in the future. But we need the public's support to achieve our mission."

For more information about children and lung disease and about Christmas Seals, contact the American Lung Association of Western Mass. at 393 Maple Street, Springfield (737-3506).

Mended Hearts To Meet In Springfield On Jan. 4th

The Mended Hearts, Inc., Chapter 37 of Greater Springfield will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge 61, 440 Tiffany Street, Springfield.

Anyone who is anticipating cardiac surgery or undergone cardiac surgery is welcome to attend this support group meeting with family or friends. There is no charge.

Your Back And Your Health

by Drs. Katherine and Joseph Schlaffer
192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam — 789-1369

Last week, Pioneer Valley doctors of chiropractic and their patients reported that an article appearing in a Springfield newspaper warned to avoid manipulation of the neck. The article showed a side view of the neck and the vertebral artery. It warned that manipulation of the neck by a chiropractor could cause a stroke.

This alleged danger has never been substantiated as significant and, in a chapter devoted to safety, the New Zealand Commission concludes that chiropractic treatment "is remarkably safe."

"The risk of vertebral artery syndrome (VAS) following cervical adjustment is extremely remote — about .0002 percent or two to three cases per million treatments," Medical specialists agree. This compares with a one to two percent risk of paralysis from neurosurgery on the cervical spine (15,000 cases per million).

According to state and national chiropractic organizations, this type of attack is part of a well-planned, coordinated offensive against chiropractic by the American Medical Association (AMA). The AMA has historically sought to undermine and eliminate the chiropractic profession. Then, in 1991, the chiropractic profession won a monumental, anti-trust suit.

After an 11-year legal process instituted by chiropractors, a U.S. District Court judge found the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the American College of Radiology guilty of having conspired to eliminate the chiropractic profession. Shocking but true.

The judge also ruled that the actions of the AMA and its co-conspirators over the last 25 years had resulted in serious damage to the competitive process in health care, and the profession of chiropractic as a whole as well as to individual doctors of chiropractic and patients they serve.

Chiropractic has proven its value in this country for 98 years. Study after study by independent research institutions have proven that chiropractic is safe, more effective, and less costly than the medical alternative for many conditions. Malpractice insurance for chiropractors ranks among the lowest for health care providers.

The reason is simple indeed. Most interventions by allopathic (medical) physicians have a higher complication rate than chiropractic intervention.

Check our classifieds

Some Warning Signs Of Child Abuse & Neglect

Please note that there are many warning signs — but no single factor is necessarily conclusive. It's the combination of warning signs that should cause one to be concerned.

- An abused and/or neglected child generally:
- Displays welts or other skin injuries.
 - Wears dirty or inappropriate clothes for the weather.
 - Appears unwashed and unclean.
 - Exhibits severely abnormal eating habits.
 - Begs or steals food.
 - Shows extreme behavior, i.e., is unusually aggressive or destructive, or extremely passive and withdrawn, or may cry excessively, or else shows no response to pain or pleasure.
 - Acts unusually adultlike or exactly the reverse.
 - Seems unduly afraid of parents.
 - Is often tired and without energy.
 - Is consistently unpleasant and hard to get along with, or overly demanding and always a source of trouble.
 - Is habitually absent from or late to school (often because the parent waits for physical evidence of abuse to disappear).
 - Engages in frequent vandalism, sexual misconduct, or the use of alcohol or drugs.
 - Shows severely retarded physical or mental growth.

SIGNS OF AN ABUSING PARENT

- Seems to trust no one.
 - Refuses or else offers farfetched or contradictory explanations about his or her child's injuries.
 - Reacts extremely to child's injuries by either overreacting (becomes hostile when questioned) or underreacting (seems unconcerned about child's condition).
 - Reacts with excessive impatience to child's crying.
 - Seldom touches or looks at child.
 - Lacks control.
 - Expects or demands behavior beyond child's year.
 - Appears isolated from normal human relationships such as friends, family, relatives, neighbors, and community groups.
 - Appears to be misusing alcohol or drugs.
 - Can never be located.
- This message is brought to you by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC of Massachusetts.



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For Your Health - continued... Healthy Christmas Gift Suggestions From Baystate Medical Ctr.

"Why not tell someone how much you care about them with a gift of health this holiday season," said Risa Gaul, wellness coordinator at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Gaul offered her own "Top 10" healthy gift suggestions for the holidays:

1. Healthy cookbooks that promote low-fat cooking.
 2. A gift certificate for a therapeutic massage.
 3. Exercise equipment such as steps, stairmasters, cycle bikes, rowing machines, and weights.
 4. A subscription to a health magazine.
 5. A comfortable, supportive pair of walking shoes to inspire a good cardiovascular workout.
 6. A gift certificate to your loved one's sport-appropriate pro shop.
 7. A membership to an area health club.
 8. A gift certificate for healthy foods such as nuts, grains, and breads (available at grocery and health food stores).
 9. Exercise videos (appropriate to the recipient's level of fitness).
 10. A sleek workout outfit that will inspire your loved one to get those muscles stretching.
- "In this age of fitness, a healthy holiday gift is just what the doctor ordered," Gaul said.

Head Injury Support Group To Meet At Mercy Hospital

The monthly meeting of the Head Injury Support Group, sponsored by the Weldon Center for Rehabilitation at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, will be conducted on December 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center.

Head injury patients, their families, and friends are invited to attend the free meetings, which are conducted the fourth Wednesday of the month. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Joanne Sullivan, Head Injury Support Group facilitator, at (413) 748-6990.

Breast Cancer Group At Mercy Hospital

The Breast Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the Women's Pavilion at Mercy Hospital, will meet January 3rd and 17th, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center.

The group, which meets the first and third Tuesday of each month, is open to women who have experienced mastectomy and other breast surgery, or who have been diagnosed as having breast cancer. Family and close friends of the patient are welcome to attend and share their experiences and concerns.

For more information, call (413) 748-9080.

Spouse Support With Forastiere Family On December 27th

Monthly support groups designed specifically for those whose spouse has died are provided by the Forastiere Family Funeral Homes.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 27th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Grief Support Center, Forastiere Funeral Home of East Longmeadow, 220 North Main Street, East Longmeadow. It is on-going, 12 months a year. There is no pre-registration, nor commitment to attend. Those wishing to participate need merely to go to the group of choice. The group is facilitated by Grief Counselor Lila Forastiere.

This support group is just one of the many programs included in the Forastiere's *OPTIONS... for a brighter tomorrow*. As part of the Forastiere Family Funeral Home's continuous commitment to helping those who are grieving, the *OPTIONS* programs are offered to anyone in the community at no charge.

For further information, call 733-5311.

Chronic Pain Support At Mercy Hospital

A Chronic Pain Support Group for sufferers, their families, and friends, meets bimonthly at Mercy Hospital.

Meetings will be conducted January 4th and 17th, 12:30-2:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center. This community service is offered free of charge.

The group will be led by William Flanagan, M.A., M.Ed., Co-Director of Pain and Stress Management of West Springfield. Flanagan and his partner, Gerald Steinberg, M.D., specialize in the new field of surface EMG biofeedback to treat chronic or acute soft tissue pain disorders. Flanagan will discuss new technologies, theories, and treatments for chronic pain.

For more information, call Peg Valley, group coordinator, at (413) 748-7486.

"No More Smoking" Is Worthy Resolution For The New Year

Become a part of the majority of Americans by becoming smoke free. Make this your New Year's resolution for 1995.

Join a Freedom From Smoking support program beginning Saturday, January 7, 1995 and continuing for five consecutive Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield.

The fee for the program is \$50, and the deadline for registration is January 2, 1995.

Quit smoking for the New Year! Call the American Lung Association at 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA to register or for more information.

Protect Your Health While You're Shoveling The Snow This Winter

The first major snowfall is fast approaching... and if winter is going to be anything like last year, then you better start dusting off those snow shovels.

It's also a good time right now to familiarize yourself with how to protect your back and heart while removing that often beautiful (but heavy) white stuff, said Dr. Marc Salzberg, chairman, Emergency Medicine, Baystate Medical Center.

"People who have coronary artery disease or other illnesses should avoid exposure to cold weather, especially when shoveling," Salzberg said. He added that anyone experiencing the symptoms suggestive of a heart attack should be brought to the Emergency Department immediately.

"If a person is having a heart attack, it can be stopped in the Emergency Department with medication. But time is heart muscle, and any delay makes the outcome worse," he said.

Salzberg noted that signs and symptoms of a heart attack include pressure or pain in the chest, arms, or neck; nausea; lightheadedness; sweating or feeling clammy; or unusual fatigue.

"Any unusual exertion from shoveling snow can cause severe back pain for those with healthy and bad backs," he added.

Salzberg recommends the following tips to prevent lower back injury, which is the most frequent cause of lost work days:

- * When lifting heavy snow, don't bend over from the waist. Instead, keep your back straight and bend.

- * When pushing snow or slush out of the way, bend your knees.

- * Pace yourself. You can get more accomplished with less chance of injury if you take smaller shovelfuls and do more of them instead of taking large scoops and tiring yourself out right away.

- * Stop periodically when you feel the need to rest.

- * Drink plenty of water. It's important to replenish when you are perspiring.

- * Do some slow, gentle stretches (without bouncing) before and after shoveling to reduce risk of injury.

- * Remember to ask for help when you need it. Hire the youngster down the street to shovel for you or contract with a plow.

"Be sure to watch out for signs of frostbite while shoveling in extremely cold weather," Salzberg said.

"The first signs of frostbite are a whitening of the skin, numbness, and a tingling feeling," he added.

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For Your Health - continued...

Advice On Minimizing Holiday Blues/Stress

At this time of year, people are bombarded by everything from greeting cards to song lyrics to TV ads telling them how joyful and happy they should be. And yet, despite the millions of messages of holiday cheer, for many the stresses of the season will transform holidays into horror days.

But there are some things you can do to minimize the holiday blues, according to two psychology professors at American International College in Springfield, MA. Gregory T. Schmutte and Paul M. Quinlan have put together a plan for people who experience that all-too-familiar emotional lull this time of year.

According to Schmutte and Quinlan, almost everyone (at one time or another) has empathized with Scrooge's famous "Bah, humbug!" attitude.

"This is not particularly surprising, considering what's often expected of individuals at this time of year," according to Schmutte.

Whether it's shopping, decorating, cooking, or family get-togethers, the demands of the season all require time and energy. These may be in short supply, especially for people with already busy schedules. Add to this the pressure to eat and drink too much, and spend too much money, and it's easy to see why many people find the holidays stressful. Even the message that everyone should be happy can cause stress, making some people feel guilty that they're not in the proper holiday spirit.

While almost everyone feels some increase in tension around the holidays, there are some for whom the impact may be particularly painful. For the poor, the lonely, or those who have suffered a recent loss, the pressures of the season may be even greater and the joy of others may only serve to underline their own distress.

Although seasonal demands affect everyone differently, there are some commonly shared experiences which are more likely to create stress. Happily, there are some fairly simple methods for dealing with these situations. And while they may not totally eliminate stress, they can at least reduce its effects. The very fact that people can anticipate potential sources of distress and be prepared in advance, provides a real advantage in coping.

Most people associate the holidays with family activities and memories of childhood experiences with their own families around the holidays. The expectation that the holidays will be idyllic, filled with celebration and harmony among family members, is very likely to be unrealistic. All too often, family relations aren't ideal the rest of the year, so it's likely that the holidays will heal less-than-perfect families, and all families are less-than-perfect.

Added pressures are often felt by families that must travel to be with their loved ones. Packing up the children and spending a week with grandma

and grandpa may leave everyone feeling displaced. Parents may be uncomfortable disciplining their children in the grandparents' home; the children are without their friends and most of their toys; and grandma and grandpa wonder where their peaceful lives have gone.

Quinlan said many of these problems can be avoided by anticipating and preparing for them: "If the trip is a long one, plan for frequent rest stops and be sure to bring travel games to entertain the children. If staying with relatives, expect that the children will not always be on their 'best behavior.' If people demand better behavior than what's required at home, everyone will feel the added pressure and that will make matters worse."

Because the holidays can be truly exciting for young children, they may become excessively demanding, boisterous, or impatient. Children often demonstrate their enthusiasm and excitement in ways that create problems for mom and dad ... "Why can't we open some presents now?" ... "Why can't we go to see Santa at the mall again?"

Once again, be prepared for the fact that children will be more unruly than usual and plan some activities that will allow them to blow off steam. Recognizing that children's obstinance and/or elevated energy levels are related to their anticipation of the holidays leaves people better equipped to accept it as such and not escalate it by being overly reactive or punitive.

Additional stress can be felt by the entire family as they recall memories of past holidays with loved ones who are now deceased. Some would prefer to skip the holidays completely rather than consider another year without the one who was so dear to them. When grandpa starts crying at the holiday dinner table for no apparent reason, the rest of the family feels his pain as they realize that grandma is in his thoughts again.

Memories need not spoil a holiday season. Grappling with the death of a loved one might be ameliorated by focusing on the pleasant times that we shared with that person and being grateful for them.

Combating increased family pressures, then, may require a lowering of expectations. Families are not likely to resemble the Cosbys or the Cleavers simply because it's the holiday season. If people don't expect perfection, they are not so devastated with patience wears thin, when the kids have an argument, when tempers flare, or when sad memories intrude.

The commercialization of the holidays, with its demands for shopping and decorating and entertaining, is a prime source of holiday tension. For many, shopping is the most dreaded of holiday traditions. Who to buy for, how much to spend, the crowded malls, long lines at the cash register, and even the fierce competition for a parking space, can make gift-buying a burden rather than a joy. Even worse is the pressure on people to spend more than they should. In the end, many gifts may be bought out of guilt rather than generosity.

The Boy Scout motto can help here—"Be Prepared." Anticipating a problem and planning for it beforehand are the best way of dealing with stressful demands. People who make buying decisions in advance are better able to resist the influence of gorgeous displays, bargain promises, and a variety of other merchandising techniques designed to part shoppers and their money.

It's a good idea to make a budget and a shopping list in the quiet of the home setting. That's also the time to make the tough decision to stick to the list—some even find it helpful to write "Stick to the List" in bold letters across the top. Also, spending less time on gifts that are obligatory can give people more time to concentrate on those presents that are more meaningful as expressions of affection or appreciation.

People usually find it less stressful to shop at times when stores are quieter—early in the day or between four and six in the evening. Better yet, using a store catalog helps to avoid many of the hassles altogether.

And remember, nothing increases blood pressure faster than waiting until the last minute. Above all, nobody should try to do it all at once. It's much better to plan several trips rather than one great shopping spree. And people should always leave some time for a relaxing treat during the shopping day.

You're Not Alone...

The feverish pace of the holiday season affects almost everyone and, according to Schmutte, it's important for people to realize that they are not unique in feeling stressed. But, with so many messages of joy and happiness, the mere mention of holiday pressure or holiday blues may seem sacrilegious to many, so they say nothing.

SEE HOLIDAY STRESS - Page 49...

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*For Your Health - continued...***Be Careful When Drinking During Holidays**

Many persons who don't normally drink alcohol will find themselves taking a drink while partying during the holidays," said Dr. Michael J. Lemanski, medical director of Business & Health Occupational Medicine in Springfield, an affiliate of Baystate Health Systems.

Lemanski said to keep your holidays safe while at a party, don't drink more than one alcoholic beverage an hour, and limit your drinking to no more than two alcoholic beverages if you are driving.

He reminded party-goers that being "sociable" doesn't mean you have to drink alcohol.

"There are plenty of alternatives to alcohol. Order a non-alcoholic beer or non-alcoholic sparkling champagne, a cola with a twist of lime, or even a healthy cranberry juice with a twist of lime," he said.

If you do choose to drink while at a party, make sure you eat something beforehand, Lemanski warned.

"Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream at a much higher rate when you have an empty stomach," he added.

Lemanski noted that persons who are on medication should read the directions carefully since mixing alcohol with some drugs can have an undesirable effect.

Also, if you are going out to a party with several friends, Lemanski suggested choosing a designated driver who will drink only soft beverages or juices.

"In addition to the serious harm you could cause some innocent person and yourself, if you are convicted of driving while under the influence, you will likely spend between \$2,000 to \$5,000 in fines and insurance costs," Lemanski said.

He added that Massachusetts recently lowered the breath alcohol limit used to determine intoxication, and now as few as two drinks could place you at that threshold, especially if you are drinking on an empty stomach.

Lemanski offered the following tips to persons hosting holiday parties.

"Remember, as party host, you can be held responsible for the actions of one of your guests who might have had too much to drink," Lemanski

said.

He suggested that you:

- * serve as a bartender and not leave open bottles around for people to help themselves
- * have plenty of snacks and food available
- * make non-alcoholic drinks available
- * stop serving alcohol at least one hour before your party ends; and serve coffee, tea or other light snacks before your guests leave
- * don't let someone drive home who has had too much to drink.

Business & Health Occupational Medicine Center, located on Carando Drive in Springfield, is staffed by nurses and physicians trained in the treatment and management of work-related injuries.

Beginning in January 1995, Business & Health will offer breath alcohol testing to companies employing drivers who fall under new Department of Transportation regulations.

If you own a business and would like more information on Business & Health services, call 784-5860.

HOLIDAY STRESS - from Page 48...

Unfortunately, stress is almost always more upsetting when suffered in silence. The feeling that no one else is upset by holiday demands can make the sufferer feel alone and Scrooge-like, especially when others seem so happy. Putting on a happy face to cover one's true feelings can make them even more burdensome, and the very attempt to disguise or ignore the stress can actually make it worse.

In truth, millions of people are experiencing similar feelings, at least some of the time. Most mental health professionals know that this time of year adds demands to almost everyone's life. To admit to feelings of stress, even if it's only to yourself, is already an important step toward coping.

Ideally, a spouse or a close friend can help just by being a good sounding board, regardless of whether they provide advice or solutions. Most people find that just sharing concerns with a sympathetic friend can significantly reduce their negative feelings. Often the listener has similar feelings and may actually welcome the opportunity to talk.

Stress Relief

Although Professors Schmutte and Quinlan have listed some methods for reducing the stresses associated with specific holiday experiences, they may not be adequate for the general tension that some people experience without being able to identify a specific cause.

Here are three general stress reduction techniques that many people find helpful, no matter what the season:

1. Deep breathing—Several times a day, sit comfortably in a quiet place and take three deep breaths, inhaling deeply and exhaling slowly to the count of five. Try to let all your muscles relax as you exhale. You can extend this process by concentrating on your normal breathing pattern and saying "in," "out," and "relax" inwardly to yourself as you inhale, exhale, and pause. Most people find that it only takes about five minutes to become very relaxed.

2. Selfish time—Build some time into your schedule each day when you can be free of any demands. Let others in the family know that you don't want to be disturbed; then use the time to do something you enjoy, whether it's a hot tub, a good book, a brisk walk, or just closing your eyes

and being left alone.

3. Exercise—Physical activity is one of nature's best stress reducers. Researchers have found that even gentle exercise for as little as 15 or 20 minutes a day can lead to physiological and psychological benefits, including reduced blood pressure, pulse rate, and tension.

Despite the added stress and pressure that many encounter at holiday time, it is possible to escape unscathed and actually enjoy the festivities. It's important to keep holidays in proper perspective. They were not created to tax our wallets, our time, our families, or our psyches. It may help to re-focus on the true meaning of the season.

It's a religious celebration, a time of sharing, and a break from everyday routines. Stopping to pause and reflect upon the season's true meaning may help to eliminate some of the drudgery and add to the enjoyment of what can truly be a joyous season.

For more information, contact American International College's Office of Public Relations at (413) 747-6231.



Season's Greetings

*Our Family And Staff Wish
Your Family The Blessing Of
Peace And Goodwill During The
Christmas Season*

Happy 1995

John's Trucking Of Agawam

Silver Street, Agawam

The Rosati Family



Arts



ON VIDEO

by Louis Pisano

Violence Not Included, Part 2...

Here's another batch of wholesome flicks for the kids to watch this holiday. All are undeniable classics that will enthrall audiences of all ages.

Best of all, they have NO VIOLENCE! That's a great Christmas gift in itself.

* *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*

Directors: Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass. 53 minutes. Not rated. Animated.

Who could forget this immortal classic! Kris Kringle is preparing for his global trip on Christmas Eve. During the course of this story, we learn the story of Kris Kringle, who will one day become Santa Claus.

This movie will, if nothing else, put you in the holiday spirit. There's music and loveable characters—enough to warm your heart. As always, there's the bad guy who wants to eliminate toys.

The kids will watch in amazement as Kris Kringle (in the famous red suit) battles on to bring the joy of toys and Christmas to the children.

If you don't already own it, you should. They certainly don't make children's programming like this anymore. Wouldn't it be a great stocking stuffer?

Santa Claus Is Coming To Town is a piece of Christmas history that has been cherished for three decades. Your children will love it and so will you. So, when making your video lists, make sure you check it twice. *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town* is family fare...whether or not you're naughty or nice! **4 STARS.** (All ages.)

* *Frosty Returns*

Directors: Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass. 30 minutes. Not rated. Animated.

The loveable holiday snowman returns in this worthy sequel to *Frosty the Snowman*. It includes the same magic as the first classic as well as some wonderful Christmas carols.

As an icon for children, the character of Frosty is perfect. He's wholesome, loveable, and generous—all qualities our kids should be exposed to early on. This is one film that does that exactly.

Kids and adults alike will watch Frosty frolic around with the children in delight. The mood of the holidays is set from the opening segment straight through until the end without interruption. This aspect is felt throughout the tale.

As far as fans of the original hit go, they will be pleasantly surprised by this equally enjoyable sequel. It is made with the same kind of superb craftsmanship and intricacy as the first film.

So plug in the tree and round up the kids, because this is a journey you'll want to go on together. You'll all be jolly, happy souls! **4 STARS.** (All ages.)

* *Rudolph's Shiny New Year*

Directors: Arthur Rankin, Jr. and Jules Bass. 1975. 51 minutes. Not rated. Animated.

There is even another dose of everyone's favorite reindeer. Rudolph returns in this adventure that takes place shortly after Rudolph saved Christmas with his shiny red nose.

This is as equally entertaining as the original classic. The character of Rudolph still has all the charm he had in the first hit.

The kids will absolutely love watching Rudolph in a new adventure. Adults will reminisce about their youth.

Watching these films reminds me of how much better children's entertainment was. It's a shame what it has come to, but with stellar classics like this available, kids do have some hope. Merry Christmas! **4 STARS.** (All ages.)

(WRITER'S POSTSCRIPT: I want to know what you think of "Pisano's Picks ... On Video." Send your comments, suggestions, and even your letters of damnation to me in care of *The Agawam Advertiser-News*, P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.)

For all the local
news, you turn our
pages every week

Dinosaurs & Sea Monsters Exhibit Great Day For Kids At Children's Museum

First by land, now by sea ... dinosaurs are once again making waves at the Children's Museum at Holyoke.

In the wake of last year's record breaking "Dinosaurs Alive!" exhibit, "Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep!" will make its area debut on December 16, 1994 and run through April 22, 1995. The Children's Museum at Holyoke is located in the Heritage State Park at 444 Dwight Street, Holyoke.

Open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., the exhibit will feature seven lifelike animated dinosaurs from the renowned Dinamations (R) exhibition series. Visitors will be swept back in time to view life as it existed in the prehistoric seas from 408 million to 10,000 years ago.

Featured creatures include Architeuthis, a giant squid; Basilosaurus, a whale-like creature; Carcharodon, a Great White shark; Dunkleosteus, an armored fish; Elasmosaur, a Loch Ness monster type; Kronosaurus, a serpentine reptile; and Tylosaurus, a marine lizard.

Legends Come To Life

With their fossils the inspiration of myths and legends, these creatures rivaled their land-living contemporaries in size and ferocity. Their undulating tails, flapping fins, and roaring snouts are brought back to life using compressed air and

computerization.

While not recreated to actual size (Kronosaurus weighed in at 12 tons), the creatures are based on the most accurate scientific data available and fabricated by a team of paleontologists, computer programmers, artists, and sculptors at the Dinamation (R) studios of Irvine, California.

The exhibit is arranged as an underwater journey. To recreate this forgotten world, the museum enlisted the talents of two Holyoke artists, Richard Moss and Robert Clark. Both Massachusetts Cultural Council Roster-listed artists, the two have collaborated on several previous projects.

Moss, whose background includes architectural design, is presently Artist in Residence at the Holyoke Magnet Middle School for the Arts. Clark, a painter, is currently Artist in Residence in Pittsfield Public Schools. Their involvement in area education and their unique creative talents made them the ideal team to bring the Sea Monster exhibit to life.

"Sea Monsters: Dinosaurs of the Deep!" will run from December 16, 1994 through April 22, 1995. Museum Director Pat Byrnes expects this year's extended run to meet attendance predictions of 60,000 visitors.

For further information, contact Cherie McBride at 536-7048.

Ludlow's Exit 7 Players Offer Subscriptions For 1995 Season Which Opens January 27th

The Exit 7 Players, Ludlow's own theatre troupe, have announced their schedule of productions for the 1995 season.

Currently in rehearsal is a popular story dealing with youth in conflict. "The Outsiders" will be presented January 27th, 28th, and February 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 11th.

In the spring, Exit 7 will offer a Mark Twain classic set to music. "Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" will take the stage May 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. This musical is eagerly anticipating its mid-February audition.

The late-summer season will highlight the troupe's annual youth players production; this coming season's focus will be to bring a younger age group of children into the theatre to present a

show for all ages to enjoy.

In the fall of 1994, British comedy will conclude Exit 7's season with "Taking Steps," appearing October 27th, 28th, and November 3rd, 4th.

Season subscriptions—which include ticket price, refreshment, and listing in the program—are available for \$38. A special Christmas Season bonus includes a subscription for two at \$59; that's a savings of \$17 if you purchased two at the regular price!

This makes a perfect gift for those who have everything; two people will enjoy four exciting nights of quality live entertainment for less than \$15 a night.

For your subscription, call Jim at 583-5192. Any other questions or inquiries, call 547-8038.

BIRTHDAY CARD ADS are \$25 with picture. The deadline is Tuesday at noon, prior to publication.

Home Is Where The Heart Is This Holiday Season...



Ayre

REAL ESTATE
COMPANY, INC.

701 Main Street
Agawam Center

Recipes For Those Rushed For Dinner

Two age-old questions—what to do with all that leftover turkey, and what to cook on Monday night—have been tastily answered by **Monday Nite Beans & Rice**.

This flavorful mix of celery, green onions, red kidney beans and diced turkey, seasoned with garlic, red wine, oregano, and naturally brewed Kikkoman Lite Soy Sauce, cooks-up in less than half an hour. A richly satisfying dinner, it's also low in calories and fat.

The benefit of lite soy sauce is that it has the ability to bring all of the individual flavors into balance, while adding a savory richness. It also has less sodium than regular brewed soy sauce, yet retains all of its distinctive flavor-enhancing qualities because the salt is removed after brewing.

When you serve this hearty meal, you can be sure there won't be any turkey left over!

MONDAY-NITE BEANS & RICE

¾ cup chopped celery
4 green onions & tops, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
½ cup red wine
1 can (14½ oz.) reduced sodium kidney beans, rinsed and drained
2 cups diced cooked turkey
¼ teaspoon dried oregano, crumbled
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon cornstarch
3 tablespoons Kikkoman Lite Soy Sauce
Hot cooked rice

Saute celery, green onions and garlic in hot oil in large saucepan over medium heat 2 minutes. Stir in wine, beans, turkey, oregano, pepper and 1½ cups water; cover and bring to boil.

Reduce heat; simmer 15 minutes. Blend cornstarch and 1 Tbsp. water; stir into turkey mixture. Bring to boil; cook, stirring, 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in lite soy sauce; serve over rice.

Makes 4 servings.

Each serving: 342 calories (15% from fat), 6g fat, 31mg choles., 520mg sodium, 46g carb., 23g protein.

Ease the normal rush of dinner preparation by using your microwave to cook "Vegetable-Beef Casserole." Combining ground beef, crookneck squash, onion, tomatoes and rice, this one-dish meal takes only a half-hour to cook.

It gets its rich flavor from the seasonings—garlic, basil and naturally brewed Kikkoman Soy Sauce. The benefit of brewed soy sauce is that it provides a savory balance and meaty richness, without overpowering the other ingredients.

Stir the casserole often as it microwaves so the rice and beef cook evenly and thoroughly. In between stirring, prepare a tossed green salad and set out a basket of rolls to complete this richly flavored, hearty entree.

VEGETABLE-BEEF CASSEROLE

¾ pound ground beef
¾ teaspoon garlic powder
2 medium crookneck squash, cut in half lengthwise, then cut crosswise into ¼ inch slices
1 small onion, chopped
1 can (14½ oz.) tomatoes, quartered
½ cup uncooked rice
¼ cup Kikkoman Soy Sauce
1½ teaspoons basil, crumbled

Crumble beef into 2-quart microwave-safe baking dish; sprinkle with garlic. Cover; microwave on High 3 minutes. Stir in squash, onion, tomatoes, rice, soy sauce, basil and ½ cup water.

Cover and microwave on High 27 minutes, or until rice is tender; stir frequently.

Makes 4 servings.

Spfld. Library & Museums Announce Holiday Schedule

The Springfield Library & Museums Association has announced the following schedule for the Christmas/New Year's holiday period:

Saturday-Monday, December 24th-26th: Libraries and museums closed.

Tuesday-Friday, December 27th-30th: Libraries open regular hours; museums open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 31st: Libraries and museums open regular hours.

Sunday & Monday, January 1st & 2nd: Libraries and museums closed.

The Springfield Library & Museums Association is a private, non-profit organization which includes the Springfield City Library system, the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, the Springfield Science Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts.

For additional information on programs and membership, call (413) 739-3871.

Springfield Museums Have Busy Schedule During Holidays; Open Dec. 27th - 30th

The George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Science Museum, and the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, December 27th-30th, during the school vacation.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum

Tuesday, Dec. 27th, noon-4:00 p.m. - Make your own dollhouse.

Wednesday, Dec. 28th, noon-4:00 p.m. - Make miniature dollhouse furniture.

Thursday, Dec. 29th, noon-4:00 p.m. - Make a Mexican folk art picture frame.

Friday, Dec. 30th, noon-4:00 p.m. - Create a

traditional Victorian craft and learn about African-American life in Victorian times.

(\$1 materials fee for each art-making workshop)

Science Museum

1:00 & 2:00 p.m. - planetarium program, *Sky Show*, (planetarium tickets \$1 per person)

2:30 p.m. - science demonstration

The museums are located at the Quadrangle on the corner of State and Chestnut Streets in downtown Springfield.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children six-18, free for children under six and members. Fridays are free with a current Springfield City Library card. The single admission fee provides entry to all four museums.

For information, call (413) 739-3871.

Check our classified pages every week

CELEBRATE THE

Holiday

AT

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801 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills

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NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

Hosted By The Bruno Family

Two Sitzings With This Special Menu:

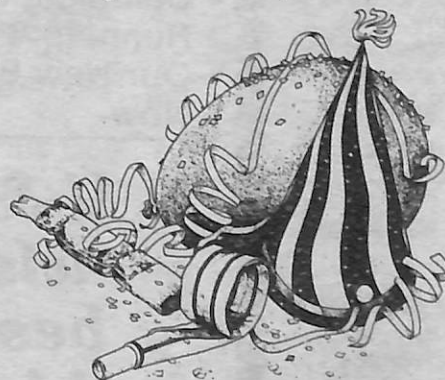
5:00 P.M. And 8:00 P.M.

Large Parties At 7:00 P.M.

Limited Menu Includes...

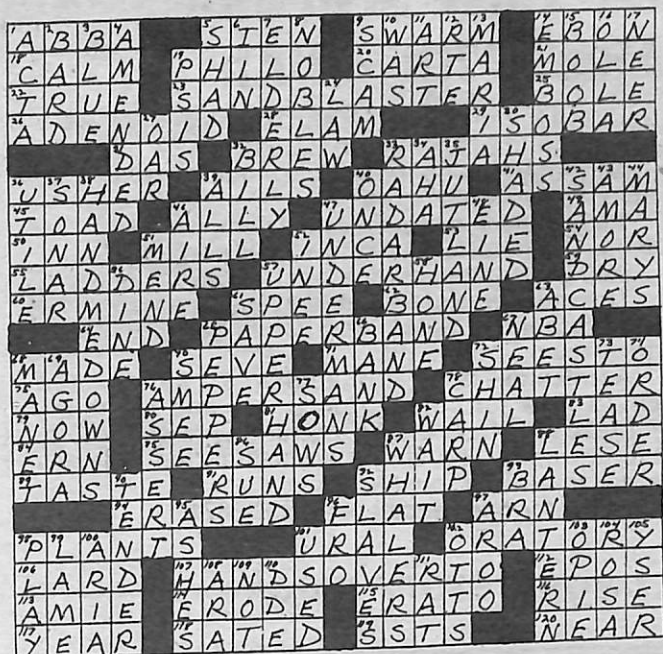
**Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp,
And Other Favorites**

*Your Dinner Includes Appetizers, Coffee And Dessert,
Champagne, Party Favors, And A Live Disc Jockey*



Reservations A Must — 786-5788

Last Week's Solution...



ACROSS

- 1 Put two and two together
4 Bellicose planet
8 Show concern
12 Mane components
15 Askew
16 Prayer finale
17 "Crazy as —"
18 007
20 Suit fabrics
22 Pew
23 Former name indicator
24 "... hungry I could — horse"
26 Tattered
28 Duty avoiders
32 Playwright's favorite abbr.
33 Beauty shop job
34 Verne's Captain
36 List of candidates
40 Buck or kang follower
41 Watt's power source
43 Tie
44 Spanish gent
46 Repose
47 Renown
48 "Norma —"
50 Cease-fires
52 Ledger entries
55 Bemuse
56 IRA return (abbr.)
57 18A's school
60 Debated
64 Movie featuring 18A
67 Don the uniform
68 Sea raptor
69 Bathroom wall covering
70 Lake Indians
71 Feat
72 Morays

73 "— Lanka"

DOWN

- 1 Words of discovery
2 Roy's wife
3 Fashion name
4 Commissioned officer (abbr.)
5 Word of woe
6 City on the Tiber
7 Jousting weapons
8 Mr. Calloway
9 In with
10 Actress Adoree
11 Finished
13 A portrayer of 18A
14 Type of thief
19 Heads the cast
21 British carbines
25 Mountain crest
27 Opponent for 18A
28 Health farms
29 Roll call response
30 Club for Fuzzy
31 Besmirch
35 Saharan stopovers
37 "I smell —"
38 Domesticate
39 Lambs
42 Hostess with the Mostest
45 Judgement passer
49 Baronial piece of land
51 Money holder
52 Drew a bead on
53 Saw wood?
54 Scree
58 Man from Musgogee
59 Nellie for short
61 Author Leon
62 Eternally
63 Lucy's hubby once
65 Writer Buntline
66 Thing, at law (Lat.)

Agawam Poetry...

A Tree For Yuletide

by Agnes R. Neylon Smith

The Christmas tree stands straight and tall,
For all God's creatures, both great and small;
Its branches reach up to caress the sky,
Greeting carolling angels, as they pass by;

It welcomes the birds from their frosty flight,
And nestles them into its boughs, this night;
It reserves one very special branch,
For a fallen sparrow, it may find, by chance;

God made this tree with infinite care,
For all mankind, and beasts to share;
With love for each other, on the day of His birth,
Bringing love to the world, and peace to the Earth;

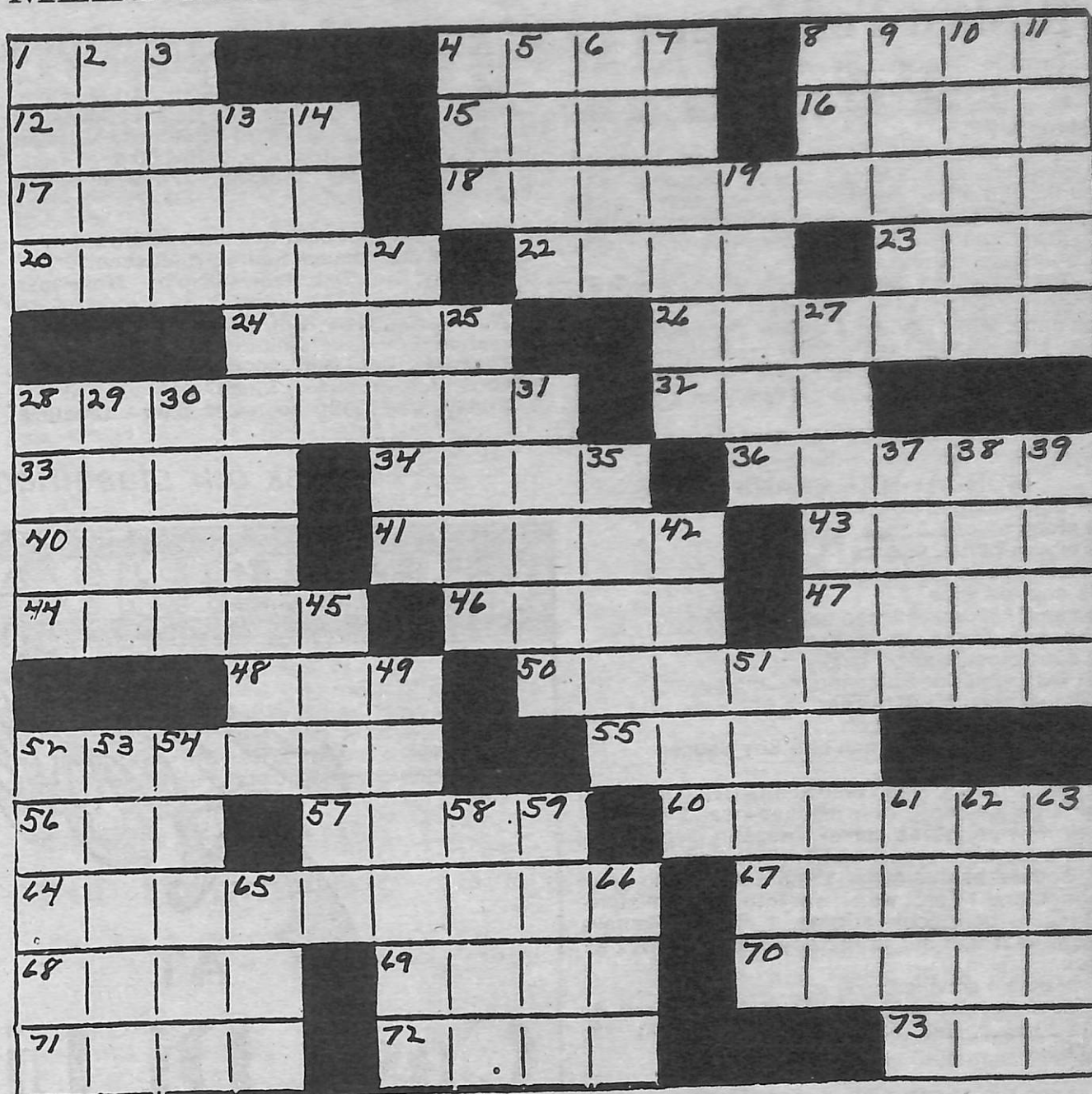
He blessed each bough with His eternal love,
And one uppermost branch, for the Christmas Dove;
The denizens of the forest, chose this evergreen tree,
And adorned it with love, for the world to see;

The squirrels, the rabbits, the birds, and the deer,
All gather together, for Christmas is near;
Their gifts are not of the worldly kind,
They gathered all the love in their hearts, they could find;

They share it with each other, and men of good will,
The true meaning of Christmas with joy, they fulfill;
They give thanks for their gift, the great evergreen tree,
And the fruit that keeps them so safe and so free;

They treasure the gifts God put on this Earth,
His presents to them, on the day of His birth.

MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni



Agawam Poetry...

"It's Christmas Again"

by Julian L. Miodowski

It's Christmas again, the old timer said.
I think I'll stay up instead of going to bed.
With the lights all out, he sat in the chair,
He knew there was no Santa, and he wouldn't be there.
He looked out the window, as the snow hit the ground,
Then all of a sudden, he heard a sound.
His eyes opened quickly, and turned around.
There flew by, a man on a sleigh.

This is impossible, at my age and day.
Ho, ho, ho and a holiday cheer,
A voice called out, it was very near.
Peace be with you, God bless you too,
Your wife is OK, and is waiting for you.
I closed my eyes, my body felt a glow,
My children won't believe me, but this I know,
There's a Santa out there, all dressed in red,
I was so happy, I didn't go to bed.

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wishes its customers
best wishes for a safe
and happy holiday season!



Vinny Palange



Frank Palange





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New Red Dog
\$7.99 Plus Dep.
12 Pk. - Cans Or Btls.

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Seagram's 7
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Martini & Rossi Asti
\$6.99 After Rebate
750 ml / With Chocolate

Coors Extra Gold
30 Paks
\$13.99 Plus Dep.

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\$11.99
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Ice House
\$5.99 Plus Dep. (12 Pk.)
\$9.99 Plus Dep. (Case)
Cans Or Btls. (After Rebate)

Livingston Cellars From Gallo
1.5 Ltr. - **\$3.95**
3 Ltr. - **\$4.95**
(After Rebate)

Ballatore Gran Spumante
\$4.49
750 ml (After Rebate)

Crown Royal Gift Set
\$14.49
750 ml / With 2 Glasses

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12 Pk. Btls.

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Cans Only

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Our Own Southgate Vodka Or Gin
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Great Mixers (After Rebate)

Smirnoff Vodka
\$14.99 1.75 Ltr.

Canadian Club
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(After Rebate)


Lite
30 Pk. Cans
\$15.49 Plus Dep.

Absolut
1.75 Ltr.
\$21.99


Bud
16 Oz. Btls.
\$14.95
Plus Dep.

Chivas Regal
Full Liter
\$27.99

Seagram's Wine Coolers
Buy 1 4 Pk.,
Get 1 4 Pk. **FREE**
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Absolut Vodka
\$12.99 750 ml

Michelob Reg. Or Light
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Case (After Rebate)


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(Exc. Chard. & Cab Sav)

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Cans - Reg. Or Light


Bud Light
30 Pk. Cans
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Beck's
\$9.99 Plus Dep.
12 Pk. Btls.


Coors Light
\$7.99
Plus Dep.
12 Pk. Btls.

Check Out Our Gift Table...

- Over 300 Pre-Wrapped Gift Sets (\$4.95 & Up)
- Gift Stockings
- Bottle Bags
- Budweiser & Miller Mugs
- Sam Adams Holiday Classics (4 Btl., 22 Oz.)
- And (Of Course) Gift Certificates Available

Avoid The Christmas Shopping Hassle

- No Traffic * Plenty Of Parking * No Lines
- Mass. Lottery Tickets Make Great Gifts
- All Major Credit Cards Accepted
- Closed Monday, December 26th
- Open Monday, January 2nd, At 10:00 A.M.
- Prices Effective December 16th — December 31st

Agawam Poetry...

Oh Holy Night, Oh Glorious Morn

by Agnes R. Neylon Smith

*Oh holy night, with winds so mild,
The world awaits the birth of a Child;
To be born of Mary on Christmas Day,
And laid in a manger, in a cradle of hay;*

*Sheperds tending their flocks that night,
Were startled by the wondrous sight;
The most glorious star ever seen on Earth,
Guided them to the place of His birth;*

*A tiny stable with cattle and sheep,
Their loving, faithful vigil keep;
Close to the crib where the Baby lay,
Made from their gift, the manger hay;*

*Angels' voices heard on high,
Resounding o'er a midnight sky;
Announcing the birth of "The Christmas Child,"
Born of a virgin, tender and mild;*

*The Magi, on camels, came from afar,
Guided by the glow of the Christmas star;
Precious stones and gifts of gold,
They gave to the Babe, they didst behold;*

*They came to honor "The Infinite Birth,"
They brought the best of their kingdoms' worth;
The shepherd's gift, his prided pelt,
He placed on the Infant, as he knelt;*

*Reverence filled the humbled stall,
With love and praises, sung by all;
They came to adore the "New-born King,"
Of whom the herald angels sing;*

*The world awakens with hope, this morn,
For The Savior of the world is born;
Jesus has come this Christmas Day,
To guide mankind along life's way.*

My Third Christmas

*One Christmas Eve, when I was only three years old,
With my nose pressed against the pane, frosted and cold;
I was looking for Santa, and his big red sleigh,
And waiting for the reindeer to bring him my way;*

*But no matter how hard I wished, he didn't come
in sight,
My Daddy put me back in my crib for the night;
I tried to sleep, but I listened to every little noise,
Hoping it was Santa, with his sleigh full of toys;*

*My big brother said, there were reindoor on the roof,
He told me to listen hard, to hear the reindeer's hoof;
I really didn't hear noise, but I think he made it so,
Because oh, so very quickly, the noise didst go;*

*He told me to go to sleep, and soon it would be dawn,
He told me Santa's list was very, very long;
He said if I'd sleep a bit, he'd take me down to see,
All the wonderful toys, Santa left under the tree;*

*Well, I did sleep a little, but not very sound,
I thought I heard people, rustling around;
My big brother came to see if I was covered,
Well, I was awake, and he was discovered;*

*He had to take me down, there was no other way,
For Santa had come, and this was Christmas Day.*



MINSTREL MARY JO MAICHAK will appear at Agawam's First Night festivities.



MIME ROBERT RIVEST will appear at the town's First Night.

Events Schedule For Agawam's New Year's Eve

The Mid Winter Night Committee has finalized the schedule of performances for the town's annual New Year's Eve festivities.

It is planned as a day of family fun and entertainment that will still allow all to be home in time to welcome the New Year. Admission to all performances and horse and carriage rides are included in a one time charge for badges—\$4 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under.

Badges will be available at Town Hall, the Agawam Public Market, the Senior Center, the Agawam Public Library, and E.B.'s Restaurant. They will also be available at each performance site on New Year's Eve.

If you have any questions, contact the event's coordinator, Richard Mundo, at the Senior Center, 786-0400, ext. 242.

The schedule is as follows with time, performer, and site listed:

4:00-4:45: Music, Magic and Mime by Kit and Kaboodle, Agawam Baptist Church.

4:30-5:30: Stories and Songs by Minstrel Mary Jo Maichak, Agawam Center Library.

4:45-5:30: Magic by Tom O'Brien, Agawam Congregational Church.

5:15-6:00: Music and Singing Games by Roger Tincknell, Captain Charles House.

5:30-6:15: Pantomime by Robert Rivest Mime Theater, Agawam Congregational Church.

5:45-6:30: Music, Magic and Mime by Kit and Kaboodle, Agawam Baptist Church.

5:45-6:45: Stories and Songs by Minstrel Mary Jo Maichak, Agawam Center Library.

6:30-7:15: Magic by Tom O'Brien, Agawam Congregational Church.

6:45-7:45: Music by Ambiance Wind Quintet, Agawam Center Library.

7:00-7:45: Music and Singing Games by Roger Tincknell, Captain Charles Leonard House.

7:15-8:00: Pantomime by Robert Rivest Mime Theater, Agawam Congregational Church.

7:30-8:30: One-Act Plays, Agawam Repertory Theater, Agawam Baptist Church.

8:00-9:00: A-Ray of Elvis by Ray Guillemette and the Memphis Jam, St. John's Parish Hall.

8:30-9:30: Music by Ambiance Wind Quintet, Agawam Center Library.

9:00-10:00: One-Act Plays, Agawam Repertory Theater, Agawam Baptist Church.

9:30-10:30: A-Ray of Elvis by Ray Guillemette and the Memphis Jam, St. John's Parish Hall.

Horse and carriage rides will be available throughout the evening, weather permitting.

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Education

AHS Students Can Use Drop-In Center Beginning January 4th

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Staff

Most adults would agree they'd never want to go through their teenage years again, and most would admit those "carefree years" were anything but.

For many teens, high school years can be a time filled with worries about the future as well as family- and school-related stress. Add to that the loneliness of feeling that no one else understands or listens to them, and you have a crisis situation waiting to happen.

Last week, School Committee member Susan Pettazzoni announced an innovative approach to help students sort out the confusing and often overwhelming feelings confronting them in their everyday lives.

Students returning to AHS after the holiday break will find a willing ear tuned in to help.

Starting on January 4th, Judith Stone, MA, LMHC, will host a Drop-In Center in Room 24 on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Stone, a psychotherapist at the Agawam Counseling Center on Southwick Street in Feeding Hills, will facilitate an informal discussion group for all students looking for a safe place to share their feelings and their stories with other teens.

Developed by Mrs. Pettazzoni after consulting with experts from around the country, the program has been two years in the making.

"It's a well thought-out program," Mrs. Pettazzoni said. "It will give the students access to someone from outside the school system, but using school facilities. Judith jumped on board."

Program Is Free Of Charge

The program is being offered (free of charge) by the Agawam Counseling Center because the clinic wanted to do something for the town as well as remind the town of the services offered at the clinic, Ms. Stone said.

"I wanted to be involved because in my work, as well as in my private life, I see people in this age group really hurting," Ms. Stone said. "Sometimes they're getting the message from their families that their feelings aren't so important and they'll grow out of them. The kids can become suicidal."

Mrs. Pettazzoni added, "There's great pressure to be perfect, especially in this age group. The message can become confused."

Agreeing there is a need for the students to have somewhere to go with their problems, Agawam High School Principal Russell Furtado said, "What makes it unique is that it's not like a program that identifies someone with a problem. This is for anyone who wants to drop in and chat. It's a non-threatening atmosphere for them in the building."

While the program is not designed to serve as traditional group therapy where the same group meets periodically to talk through their problems, the drop-in center will give students a change to talk with Ms. Stone and other teens about any topic causing problems in their lives.

Ms. Stone will also serve as an information source for teens dealing with drug or alcohol problems, as well as family problems, abusive relationships, or school-related stress.

"The group will take its shape according to how the students use it," Ms. Stone said.

Furtado said the drop-in center might be a resource for students unwilling to miss class time to visit their guidance counselor.

Also, the center could help defuse the volatile situations that can develop when teens react to rumors and innuendoes (rather than sitting down to discuss their feelings to resolve a dispute), according to Furtado.

"This could be an avenue for the kids to talk and explain their feelings instead of reacting," Furtado said. "It's a good avenue of communication for the kids."

With minority students often reporting they feel the effects of racism in the school, Furtado said the center could help relieve racial tensions. "Racism is going to be a bigger problem as more ethnic and racial groups move into town," Furtado said. "Agawam kids are going to have to learn and adjust."

A "Dear Judith" Mailbox

In addition to flyers being placed throughout the school calling attention to the drop-in center, a "Dear Judith" mailbox will be available for the students to write letters raising the issues that concern them. Ms. Stone said the letters will serve as a jumping off point to get discussions started.

SEE TEEN TALK - Page 56...

Festive Winter Mural At Phelps School



THE FOURTH GRADE CLASS OF CHARLENE HERMANS at Phelps School constructed this winter mural for the holiday season. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday through Friday, December 26th-30th, & Monday, January 2nd: NO SCHOOL.

Tuesday, January 3rd: Steamed frankfort in roll, seasoned green beans, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Wednesday, January 4th: Oven baked chicken nuggets, fluffy whipped potatoes, seasoned carrots, bread & butter, chocolate brownie, milk.

Thursday, January 5th: Meatballs w/tomato sauce, buttered macaroni, California blend vegetables, garlic bread & butter, strawberry jello or fruit cup, milk.

Friday, January 6th: 1/2 tuna salad sandwich, 1/2 peanut butter sandwich, tossed garden salad w/dressing, blueberry cake w/lemon glaze, milk.

(NOTE: Please remember to purchase your tickets on Mondays for the week. Personal checks are accepted, payable to the **Agawam School Lunch.**)

Maura Martin Inducted Into Honor Society

Maura Martin, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin of 35 Anvil Road, Feeding Hills, was among 24 students inducted into the Pi Gamma Mu honors society during a November 16th ceremony at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut.

Martin, a graduate of Agawam High School, is a member of the Trinity College Class of 1995 and is majoring in psychology.

Pi Gamma Mu is a national honor society that recognizes outstanding scholarship in the social sciences. Members are elected by unanimous vote from among graduate students and undergraduates of the senior and junior classes whose scholarship qualifies them for this honor. The society also elects people who have distinguished themselves in public service.

The Trinity chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, which is known as Connecticut Alpha, received its charter in 1936. Pi Gamma Mu was founded in 1924.

Trinity, founded in 1823, is an independent nonsectarian liberal arts college that consistently is ranked among the nation's best for undergraduate learning. The College offers a classical liberal arts curriculum with 35 major fields of study and is noted for its ability to combine "real world" issues and experiences with the more theoretical lessons of the classroom; its flexibility in offering a large number and variety of learning options; and its personalized approach that enables students to tailor their learning to individual interests, needs, and aspirations in an environment of close student-faculty collaboration.

About 1,750 students from 47 states and 24 countries are enrolled at Trinity's 100-acre campus. The college maintains a 10-1 student/faculty ratio in the classroom.

Sean T. LaChance On School Honor Roll

Headmaster W. Graham Cole, Jr. is proud to announce that Sean T. LaChance, son of Mrs. Wayne E. LaChance of Birch Hill Road, Agawam, has received Honors for the fall term at Westminster School, Simsbury, Connecticut.

Founded in 1888, Westminster School is an independent, co-educational secondary day and boarding school located in Simsbury, Connecticut. This year, enrollment stands at 350, with students coming from 33 states and 14 foreign countries.

Westminster's purpose is to educate young people by providing a rich variety of academic, athletic, and artistic opportunities.

TEEN TALK - from Page 55...

Depending on the topics raised, Ms. Stone said she expected to be doing research to provide the students with informational brochures and hotline numbers.

"I think it will be great to have more kids talking and finding out they all have the same feelings," Furtado said.

"I've talked to several students about the program," Mrs. Pettazzoni said. "I told them it has nothing to do with parents or teachers—it's just for you to sit and talk to someone who's not going to judge you."

Asked why the students should take a chance on the drop-in center, Ms. Stone answered, "So they don't feel stuck and can feel there are more options for themselves both in thinking and in doing; so they don't have that awful feeling of being alone; and to make more room inside themselves for fun."

All discussions held at the drop-in center will be strictly confidential.

Please remember that we do not publish next week.

"Knock and the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7

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"Let the little children come to Me..."

Matthew 19:14

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Agawam High Guidance Report

by Paul C. Cavallo
Chairman

As the Christmas break approaches, we are nearing the halfway point of the school year. On Friday, December 23rd, warnings will be issued to students who are experiencing academic problems.

During the last week of January, all students will be taking mid-year examinations. (I will say more about these exams in a later column and include an exam schedule.)

During the months that follow, numerous activities will emanate from the guidance office. The following is a list with approximate dates for these events:

- 1) Scheduling Students Grades 9-12 in for the 1995-96 school year — February 1995.
- 2) Scholarship Fair — March 1995 (evening event).
- 3) College Night (Junior Parents) — April 1995 (evening event).
- 4) Advanced Placement Examination — May 1995.

By this time, parents of seniors have received their child's November SAT scores and, hopefully, most seniors have submitted their college application(s) to their counselors. After a very successful Financial Aid Night, parents can now begin the task of filling out the FAF and/or the FAFSA.

If you do not have these forms, have your son/daughter stop by the guidance office. Any questions about the form(s) can be addressed to Lee Sirois, director of financial aid, at AIC. As mentioned in previous columns, try to send your completed form(s) by the first week in February 1995.

If your child is planning to attend a private school, you must fill out both the FAF and the FAFSA. Most state schools only require a FAFSA.

The guidance department would like to wish you a happy holiday season and hopes that the new year brings you good health and happiness.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Congratulations!

Kara Gaynor - Bay Path

Tony Rose - Bryant

John Scalise - Old Dominion

SCHOLARSHIPS: See your counselor for more information.

James and Marietta Garguilo Memorial Scholarship - Open to students in the top 10 percent of their class who have demonstrated service to the community. Deadline: March 3, 1995.

Regis College Presidential Scholarship - Open to students who plan to attend Regis.

* The following students made the Honor Roll. Their names were inadvertently left off the list.

Ryan Kane - Class of 1995

Daisy Cruz - Class of 1997

All the local news with us, each week - ADVERTISER NEWS

Happy Holidays

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Gift-Wrapping At Robinson Park School



THE ROBINSON PARK PTO recently held a holiday gift-wrapping session. IN TOP PHOTO, PTO members Janine Iacolo and Joan McCarthy; IN PHOTO BELOW, students Gina Graziano, Sophia Nasti, and Christopher Waite. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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JAPANESE STUDENTS at Phelps School have been receiving support from a variety of sources, including (back row, from left) - Noriko Anderson, Japanese-born town resident; Susan Mutti, English As A Second Language teacher; Beth Robinson, third grade teacher; and parent June Fujioka from Japan. Mrs. Fujioka's two daughters, Fu and Kyo, are students at Phelps School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH SOPHOMORE MEGUMI ISOGAI (left) has been working with Japanese student Fu Fujioka. Fu's mother, June Fujioka (right), relocated to the USA and is currently a student at Springfield College. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Japanese Transfer Students Receiving Support From Variety Of Sources At Phelps School

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

What started out as a part-time job six years ago has turned into a full-time challenge for "English as a Second Language" teacher Susan Mutti. With 23 students this year spread out over the four elementary schools, Mrs. Mutti was forced to turn to the community to find volunteers to tutor students in English and translate lessons for them in the classroom.

"This year I have the most students," Mrs. Mutti said, "and the most students with the least English."

Grateful for the help of Japanese-born resident Noriko Anderson, Mrs. Mutti said "it's been working out very well" for her students Kyo and Fu Fujioka, first and third graders at Phelps School.

Surprised to learn there were Japanese students in Agawam, Mrs. Anderson volunteered to work with the girls twice a week through the fall.

No stranger to the problems facing Japanese students learning English as their second language, Mrs. Anderson taught English at the elementary school level in Japan. Even with her background in English, Mrs. Anderson said the language was difficult for her when she came to the United States with her husband, Gregory, five years ago.

"Basically, I had to do the learning all over again," Mrs. Anderson said. "I didn't have much chance to speak and to listen to English in Japan."

On her visits with Fu, Mrs. Anderson explains the lessons teacher Beth Robinson is teaching to the class and translates what is being said.

Occasionally, Fu would do her classwork in Japanese and Mrs. Anderson would translate and explain it in English.

"She doesn't need to do that very often," Mrs. Anderson said. "She seems to know what's going on in the classroom, which I find very amazing."

As much of first-grade work is done using pictures, Mrs. Anderson said Kyo hasn't needed her

help as much. "Basically, I just chat with her to see if she understands," Mrs. Anderson said. "I think she's enjoying school."

Twice a week, Agawam High School sophomore Megumi Isogai works with Fu after her school day is over.

"I explain what's going on," Megumi said. "I help her with science and social studies."

Megumi, who came to the U.S. eight months ago, had studied English in Japan for three years. While math is no problem for Megumi, the vocabulary in her other classes is difficult. Megumi said her favorite class is child development, and she enjoys her "English as a Second Language" class, too.

Had No English Skills Upon Entering U.S.

Along with their sister, Kei, a fifth grader at the Middle School, Fu and Kyo had no English skills when they came to the United States with their mother last summer.

A gerontology student at Springfield College, Mrs. June Fujioka and her daughters will be living in Agawam for the next two years.

While it's not so unusual for a Japanese family to be separated when the husband is transferred to another city, Mrs. Fujioka said it was unusual for a wife's career to move the family, especially to another country.

"My husband has always encouraged me to have my own life. He's very understanding," Mrs. Fujioka said. "Even as a married couple, it is important to pursue your individual dream. I've been waiting for the right time."

While her husband remains in Japan working in

the family ironworks business, Mrs. Fujioka is preparing for a career working with the growing elderly population in Japan.

Within 30 years, Japan will have the world's largest percentage of senior citizens because the birth rate is so low, Mrs. Fujioka said. Through her studies at Springfield College, Mrs. Fujioka is preparing for a career working in her government's Gold Plan to provide more services (including adult day care centers and home care) for senior citizens.

Mrs. Fujioka first became interested in coming to the area through the sister city program linking Springfield to Takikawa. With the help of Susan Root of the World Affairs Council, Mrs. Fujioka was able to get all the information she needed in making her decision to bring her family to Western Massachusetts.

Although concerned that the girls might fall behind in their coursework in the competitive education system at home, the Fujiokas decided that in the long run, their daughters would benefit from experiencing a different culture at such a young age.

Any fears she had had about bringing her daughters to America were relieved after attending Parents' Night at Phelps School. After watching the slide show Mrs. Robinson puts together of the children going about their daily routine at school, Mrs. Fujioka said she knew she had made the right choice.

"It (the reaction of the parents) was very emotional," Mrs. Fujioka said. "I saw a healthy America. Here, it's just the same. Parents (here) care as much as Japanese parents."

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GIRL SCOUTS

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Girl Scout Chatter

DAISY TROOP 545:

Daisy Troop 545 from Robinson Park School would like to give special thanks to Dan Ashburn, the owner of McDonald's on Suffield Street in Agawam, for his very generous donation which we used for supplies needed to get our new troop started. We would also like to thank Debbie Ejesi and family for opening their fabulous finished basement for our meetings. It's just great and really works out well.

Our troop went on our first event at the end of October to a farm in Southwick for pumpkins, cider, donuts, and a fun hay ride. During the month, the girls also began learning their promise, singing songs, and getting to know one another a bit.

On November 17, 1994, we held our investiture ceremony. The girls said their promise well. They lit candles and proudly received their pins.

December's first meeting was spent making ornaments for the giving tree at Baystate West (many of us planned to go place our ornament on the tree). The girls, leaders, and helpers also worked hard on our gingerbread house for the display at the Agawam library; it was not as easy as it looked. We can't wait to see the finished products.

As a new troop, we are all doing our best, and with everyone's help, we will get better and better. Troop 545 sends wishes to all for happy holidays and a wonderful new year!

BROWNIE TROOP 540:

In October, members of Brownie Troop 540 from Granger School took a walking trip from their school to Cincotta Farms to purchase pumpkins that they painted the following week. It was great to see each girl's individual artistic abilities revealed.

In November, we discussed the meaning of community service with our Brownies. At one meeting, we cut and decorated items to go on the December "Birthday Boards" at Heritage Hall North. At a later meeting, we took a field trip to visit the residents at Heritage Hall and put up our designs. While we were there, a few of the residents spoke to the girls about their many life experiences. This was one of the requirements for the "Listening to the Past" try-it patch that our Brownies were working towards.

On December 11th, our troop planned a trip to see "A Christmas Carol" at Symphony Hall. Later in the month, we planned a holiday party at one of our co-leader's homes, complete with caroling, cookies, and gift exchanges. We are also making plans to create our own wonderful troop banner. Happy holidays!

BROWNIE TROOP 587:

Brownie Troop 587 from Phelps School held its investiture ceremony on December 12, 1994 at the Agawam Congregational Church. The six-week preparation for the ceremony included the girls reciting and understanding the Girl Scout Promise and Laws, learning that Girl Scouting is a world-wide organization, and rehearsing the color guard ceremony and the Brownie story.

The Color Guard began the ceremony with an honorable presentation of the American flag, their troop flag, and the Japanese flag (representing their sister Brownies in the troop). A fine performance of "The Brownie Story" followed. The ceremony was completed with the girls receiving their Brownie pins, world association pin, and Girl Scout Ways Try-it patch.

Jennifer Epaul from Brownie Troop 567, and Danielle Craig and Ashley Niquette from Brownie Troop 546, were there representing third-year Brownies to welcome each girl as they crossed the bridge.

The following girls are now officially first-year Brownies: Jennifer Bessette, Jamie Chavez, Jacalyn DuVarney, Kyo and Fu Fujioka, Marie Iacolino, Angela Mancini, Heather Jo Moffatt, Heather and Danyel Morace, Lindsay Palazzi, Caitlin Ranstrom, Kala Reid, Shelley Shively, Kallin Szymanski, Jackie Van Etten, Julie Warcho, and Allison Ziemba.

Coffee, tea, and cake were served after the ceremony. We are all very proud of our girls. Congratulations to all!!!



PHELPS SCHOOL TROOP 587 held its Investiture Ceremony on December 12th at the Agawam Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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SEE GIRL SCOUT CHATTER - Page 60...

GIRL SCOUT CHATTER - from Page 59...**AGAWAM UNIT PROJECT:**

At the end of November, 17 Pioneer Valley Girl Scout troops from the Agawam Unit participated in the gingerbread house and winter scenes display at the Agawam Public Library.

Troops from Daisy to Cadette level participate in this very exciting project. It was a cooperative effort by each troop to plan and put together their unique designs.

The following troops deserve special recognition for their creative efforts:

* From Granger - Daisy Troop 542 (gingerbread house), Brownie Troop 579 (unique snowflakes), Junior Troop 547 (gingerbread bird house).

* From Robinson School - Daisy Troop 545 (gingerbread house), Brownie Troop 586 (yummy chocolate candy house), Brownie Troop 564 (gingerbread train), Brownie Troop 555 (winter fun scene; this troop also made two extra winter scenes and gave them to people who were in the hospital as "cheer-me-up" gifts), Junior Troop 539 (gingerbread pink castle).

* From Phelps School - Brownie Troop 587 (gingerbread ice-skating scene), Brownie Troop 582 (gingerbread sleigh, snowman, and Christmas tree), Brownie Troop 583 (gingerbread winter scene), Brownie Troop 557 (large Hanzel and Gretel house).

* From Clark School - Brownie Troop 558 (gingerbread winter scene), Brownie Troop 563 (large Hanzel and Gretel house).

* From Middle School - Junior Troop 553 (gingerbread Santa's workshop), Junior Troop 556 (gingerbread house - this troop also made other houses, one each, for the Heritage Hall Nursing Home buildings).

* From Jr. High - Cadette Troop 552 (luxurious candy cabin).

The display will be at the library throughout the month of December. Please take time to view these creative winter wonderlands.

(If local Girl Scout troops want to have their activities published in "Girl Scout Chatter," contact Debbie Frazzetta, 1162 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001.)

Capitanio Grandsons Make Honor Roll At Gould Academy

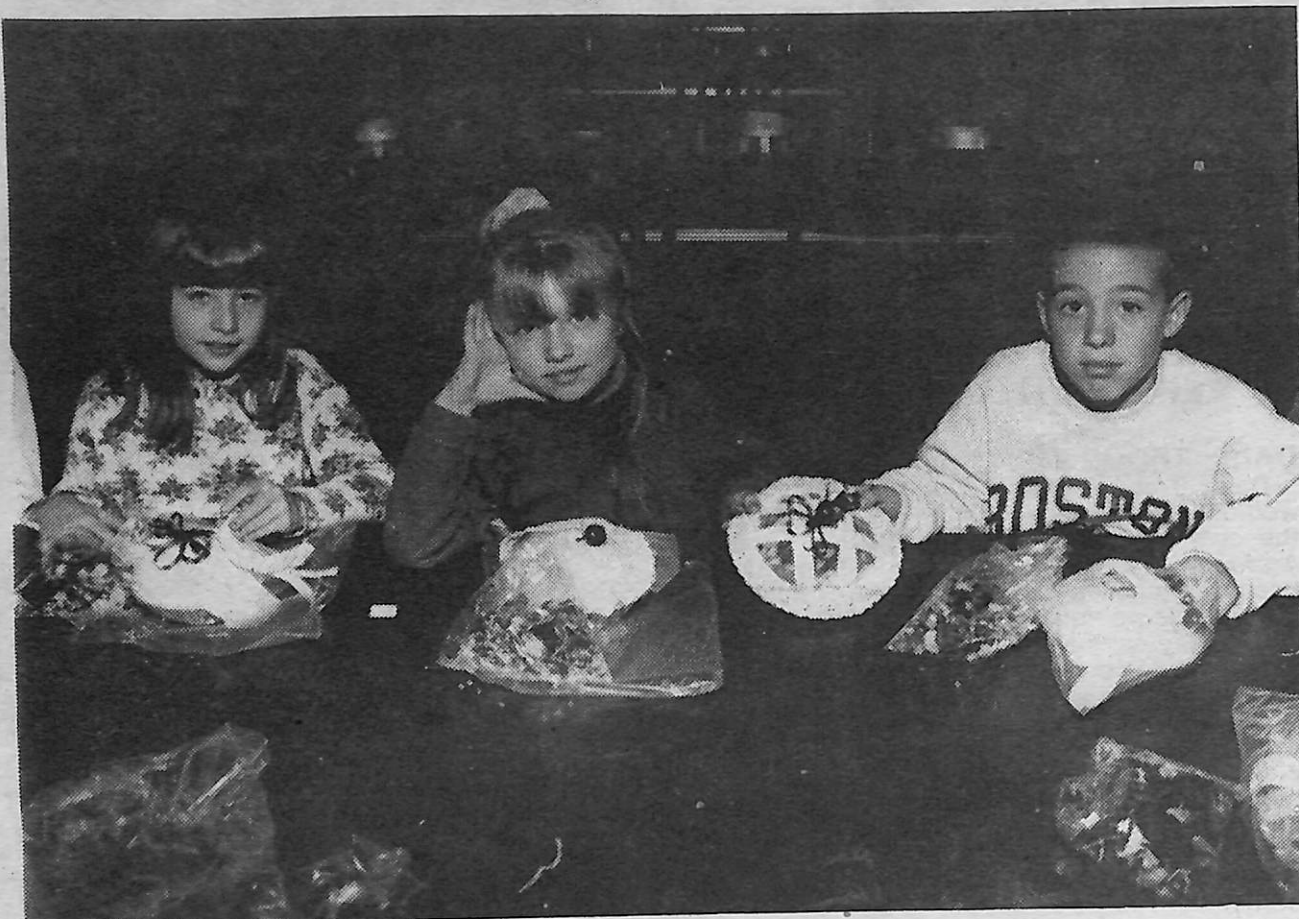
Gould Academy senior Ian Cleary and sophomore Michael Cleary of Shelburne, New Hampshire were recently named to the first trimester honor roll.

They are the grandsons of Mrs. Carolyn Capitanio of Agawam.

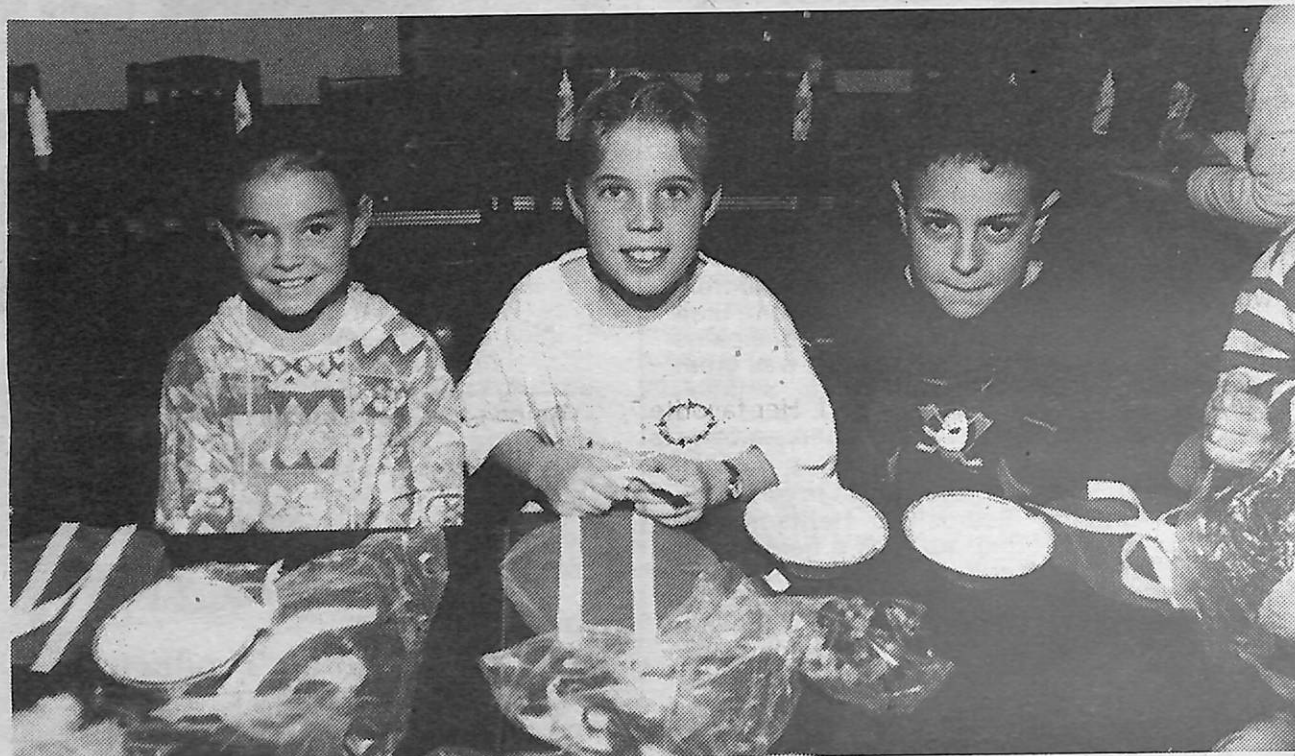
Gould Academy is an independent college preparatory school located in Bethel, Maine, adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest, with special programs in the arts, student leadership, and skiing.

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ADVERTISER NEWS

Fourth Grade Holiday Crafts At Phelps School



MAKING HOLIDAY CRAFTS at Phelps Elementary School earlier this month are fourth graders (top photo) Angela Buendo, Billie-Jean O'Connor, and Sean Summer. PHOTO BELOW - Christine Cilimberg, Scott Howes, and Joey Trombley. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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AMBER PARADYSZ

Amber Paradysz Is AHS's "Artist Of The Month" For November

The Agawam High School artist for the month of November was sophomore Amber Paradysz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Paradysz of Feeding Hills.

She has a sister, Amy, who attends the University of Massachusetts, and a good friend, Josh, who will be the recipient of her yarn painting of a girl on the moon (which is pictured). She has a cat, Moonshadow, who has two live-in friends—Babe from Maine, and Mocha, who is 20.

Amber likes to water ski and surf. Her favorite song is "Summertime" by Janis Joplin, and this is also her favorite time of year. She played soccer this autumn on the school team while holding down a job as bus girl at Alexander's Restaurant.

Amber has worked with ceramics during the summer and intends to pursue a career in the art field. She took pottery with Miss Messina during her freshman year, and is taking a crafts class with Mrs. Geraldine Ann Schilling-Nordal this year.



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM with Advisor Jeff Corbin (left) and Principal Russell Furtado (right). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Twelve AHS Students Compete In Academic Decathlon In Pittsfield

On November 19th, 12 students from Agawam High School competed in the 1994 Academic Decathlon hosted by Pittsfield High School. Competing against 10 Western Mass. schools comprising 14 teams, Agawam finished sixth.

The Academic Decathlon is a nationwide competition which consists of a series of tests involving the areas of Math, Science, Social Science, Economics, Fine Arts, and Language and Literature. The students were pleased with their performances in writing an essay, giving a speech, and being interviewed.

A Super Quiz concluded the competition, wherein each student from the top two Western Mass. teams is asked a series of five questions worth 200 points each (this year's theme was "Biotechnology"). Following this competition, the winning team then goes on to compete nationally.

Among the AHS standouts, Matt Christy won a Gold Medal in the area of Economics, a Silver Medal in the area of Language and Literature, and a Bronze Medal in the area of Science. Meanwhile, Kelly Carmody received a Bronze Medal in the area of Social Science.

Each of the students received a certificate for participating in the year's competition. We are very proud of all of them!

Ag. Middle School's P.T.O. Newsletter

The Agawam Middle School P.T.O. Board meeting was held on December 12, 1994 with approximately 10 parents attending. The staff was represented by Mr. Zavarella, Mr. Conte, Mr. Jackowski, and Mrs. LeBlanc.

Diane Hajdamowicz reported that the Holiday Bazaar was very successful with a great deal of enthusiasm from the kids. For many items the order from the company had to be quadrupled.

The Adelphi t-shirts were scheduled to be available on December 20th or 21st. Louise Escobar will be looking for help.

President Donna Shibley reported that the Open Pantry food collection is being well-supported by the kids. There is a chart in the cafeteria tracking the total number of items that each class has collected. Each grade and class tried to outdo the other in the total number of collections. (This collection ran through December 16th.)

The Accelerated Reader party is scheduled for January 27, 1995. All parents are invited to attend.

It was voted to allot \$50 to each of the 24 homeroom teachers and 21 support teachers as a holiday gift.

A special request was approved for Mrs. LeBlanc to assist in the purchase of puzzles and games from New England School Supply.

SEE MIDDLE SCHOOL - Page 62...



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AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL faculty member Vlademiro Orefice accepts the "Orange & Brown" Award from faculty member Elizabeth Prew. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

"Orange & Brown" Winner At AHS

Agawam High School teacher Vlademiro Orefice has been named the recipient of the November "Orange & Brown" Award.

Mr. Orefice was born in Italy and emigrated to the United States at age seven. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in French and Italian at Central Connecticut State University and his master of arts degree at American International College.

He taught Italian at Enrico Fermi High School in Enfield, Connecticut for nine years and culinary arts at Bloomfield High School in Bloomfield, Connecticut for one year. He has taught Italian at Agawam High School for three years.

Mr. Orefice has been involved in the restaurant business for many years in Northern Connecticut.

"Miro" and his wife, Norma, have been married for 21 years. They have three children; Brian, a student at Connecticut College, and Sharon and Gina, students at East Windsor, CT High School.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO - from Page 61...

A fitness program entitled "Keep That Body Moving" will begin Tuesday, January 10, 1995 and run for six weeks from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. directly after school. It will be directed by Mrs. Bartnik and Ms. Martel, and will feature speakers and activities. The capacity is 60 students.

Special requests by Mrs. Lester, the Project S.E.E. teacher, and Mr. Jackowski, the computer teacher, were tabled until the January meeting when (it is hoped) there will be increased attendance.

The next P.T.O. Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 1995. We hope parents will make an effort to attend and be involved in their child's school.

The P.T.O. wishes you all a very joyous holiday season!



THE "INSIDE AGAWAM SCHOOLS" team presented Middle School Home/School Counselor Richard Cowles (center) with a gift certificate for his winning entry in the logo contest.

"Inside Agawam Schools" Newsletter To Publish Second Edition In January

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

When the second edition of "Inside Agawam Schools" is published in January, the newsletter linking the far-flung buildings and offices of the School Department will have its own logo.

Richard Cowles, Home/School counselor at the Middle School, won a gift certificate from Olive Oil's Restaurant on Walnut Street Extension for his winning entry in the newsletter's logo contest.

The newsletter announcing the contest last spring landed in Cowles's mailbox the same day as a catalogue advertising school supplies. A design from the catalogue inspired Cowles's entry.

"I guess it was a little bit of serendipity," Cowles said.

The idea of a newsletter for all employees of the School Department to keep in touch with each other developed out of a professional development workshop held last fall by a group of Agawam High School teachers.

While the teachers who put the newsletter together and organize the collection of articles from the other schools are enthusiastic about

continuing the project, the future of the newsletter may be in jeopardy due to budget constraints. A scarcity of supplies leaves the newsletter committee with only enough paper on hand to publish the January edition.

Reading teacher Sandra Marona said, "Mr. Furtado (Principal) has been very generous, but it hasn't been easy."

Furtado said the newsletter helps improve comradery and spirit within the School Department by improving relationships from one building to another.

"Inside Agawam Schools" gives all staff members a forum to submit items of personal news, professional awards, or even original poems and short stories.

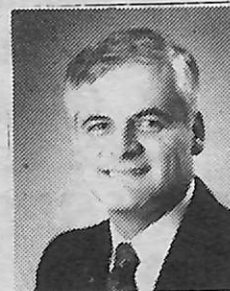
"It brings us all together," Mrs. Marona said. "We're all so spread out. We only get to see each other on the first day of school. This newsletter makes us more cohesive and keeps us informed about what everyone is doing."

Check our
classifieds

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Students Of The Month



PHYSICAL EDUCATION "Students of the Month" at the Agawam Junior High were Kornelia Moysis and David Federico. Advertiser

News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Adult Ed. Holding Registration For Winter Programs

Registration for the winter term of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, January 4th and 5th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School guidance office, and during the first week of classes on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, January 9th through 11th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School guidance office.

Classes will begin on Monday, January 9th and end in early April. The tuition charge is \$55 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting.

Tuition will be refunded, however, if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel a course(s) for lack of registration.

Those persons interested in working toward a high school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered for the winter term:

Mondays:

- * Academic courses for high school diplomas
- Typing I
- Lotis 1-2-3
- Chaircaning

Tuesdays:

- Conversational Italian Part II
- Algebra I
- Accounting I
- Word Perfect II/Desktop Publishing

Wednesdays:

- * Academic courses for high school diploma
- Algebra II
- Chemistry
- Word Perfect I
- Oil Painting
- Breadmaking & Pastry-making
- Computer Concepts

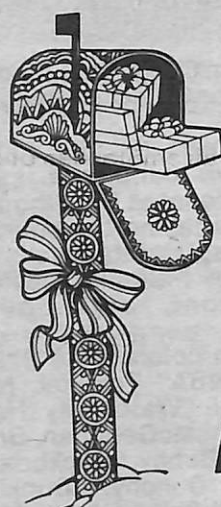
(* Includes English 9, 10, 11, 12, U.S. History, Psychology, General Math, Business Math, General Science, World History.)

Check our classified pages each week

Jr. High Students Visit Homeless Shelter



JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER LISA NETTIS and some of her students had the opportunity to spread some holiday cheer by visiting the Worthington Street Homeless Shelter Springfield on Friday, December 16th. As part of a community awareness program, the students toured the housing facility and soup kitchen. Students interacted with residents of the shelter and asked many questions concerning homelessness. Most students were surprised and expected to see grumpy, dirty men and women. In fact, they met a 20 year-old man named Ramsey who had been living at the shelter since he was 17 years-old. Ramsey told the students that he is going to STCC and would someday like to be a doctor. He also showed the students his room. Students made decorations for the Christmas tree. One student brought some canned goods. Students in photo with Ramsey are Greg Powers, Eloy Hernandez, Mike Kipp, Mike Brinn, Kevin Rivers, Henry Spadoni, Brian Griffin, and Dan Kozynoski.



The staff of The Agawam Advertiser News wishes all of its readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Sports



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM ALL STARS, a volunteer basketball team which competed with the Harlem Wizards at Agawam High School on Thursday, December 8th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Harlem Wizards Take On Agawam Basketball "All Stars" For Fundraiser At AHS

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The Clifford Kibbe gymnasium at Agawam High School has seen its share of athletic contests over the years. But nothing could have come close to the frantic fits of free-for-all foolery featuring the Harlem Wizards and the Agawam All(most) Stars on Thursday evening, December 8th.

Sponsored by the AHS PTSO, The Wizards met the All Stars for an evening of basketball razzle-dazzle as a capacity crowd turned out to jeer (or cheer) on their local heroes.

Asked to comment on the level of play during the halftime break, Athletic Director Kathleen McSweeney asked, "Which team?"

She added, "It's a stunning effort."

Under the direction of student coaches "Dunkin'" Dan Bodman, "Flying" Phil McGeoghan, and "Too Tall" Todd Jorgensen, the All Stars earned the nickname, The Legends, for their fancy footwork and perilous passing as they came from behind (way behind) to just lose by a 90-87 count.

They don't call them The Wizards for nothing.

As event organizer Joann McGeoghan had predicted, it was an evening of hilarity as students, faculty, and community leaders came together to have some fun and to raise funds for the PTSO's efforts at improving and encouraging school spirit.

No Problem Getting Mayor

Mrs. McGeoghan said it was no problem getting volunteers to play for the All Stars. Even Mayor Christopher C. Johnson did his part. "Anytime he wants to go out in public and make a fool of himself, I'm not going to say no," Mrs. McGeoghan joked.

A mother of seven, Mrs. McGeoghan said she had been working out with high school students at Fitness First on Saturday nights. "At least I can run up and down the court," she said.

Before game time, resident Brian David

reported that his wife, School Committee member Louise David, had done "absolutely nothing" to prepare to face The Wizards.

As it turned out, Mrs. David led the scoring parade for town officials with four points.

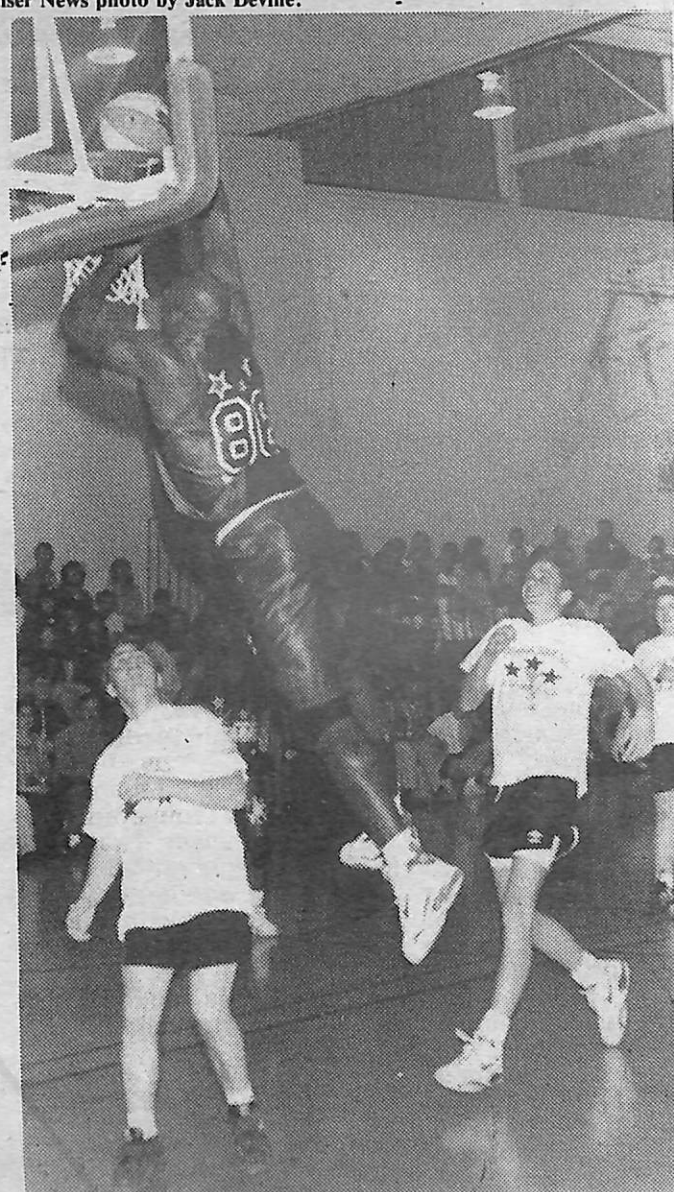
Wearing the team shirts donated by Silhouette Silk Screenings, the starters taking the court for Agawam were Mayor "Magic Johnson," Lou "Cross Court" Conte, Cindy "Gunner" Grieve, "Poppin'" Sue Pettazzoni, and Louise "Downtown" David.

Also wearing the Agawam colors were Phil "I Should Have Been in the NBA" Tomkiel, Nick "Jam Master" Graham, Bill "Watch My Hang Time" Haag, "Jumpin'" Joann McGeoghan, Brian "Laundry Man" Symington, Bobby "Backboard" Meltoney, Pat "Too Short" Dunphy, "Dunkin'" Dan Hess, "Board Smashing" Bob Johnson, Marc "Prime Time Potter" Chris "The Master" Locke, Bill "The Bullet" Maroni, Steve "Slam Dunk" Merklein, Jeremy "Pegleg" Miner, and Trish "The Mid-Air" McDonnell.

Also, Paul "A Kevin McHale Wannabe" McGrew, Melody "Air Born" Alvorado, Justin "Downtown" Barber, "Slammin'" Stephen Bennett, Ania "Backboard" Bialas, "Air Eric" Copson, Jim "Flash" Flood, Rafael "Rocket" Gonzalez, and Nelson "Nuttin' But Net" Rosardo.

Mrs. McGeoghan said the event was so successful the PTSO is planning to bring The Wizards back to Agawam during the 1995-96 school year. If all goes as planned, the Wizards will spend two days in Agawam during the one week hiatus between winter and spring sports so that athletes playing on the school teams can participate.

According to Mrs. McGeoghan, athletes participating in MIAA sports are prohibited from playing on another team during the season. Unable to play for the All Stars this year, the AHS varsity basketball players may get their shot next year.



A HARLEM WIZARD in action at the Clifford Kibbe gymnasium at AHS. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Automotive Swap Meet Coming To Big E On January 21st & 22nd

"Auto Parts Swap 'N Sell"—New England's largest indoor, all-automotive swap meet and flea market, has created an additional 20 community spaces for just oval track parts and accessories. The annual event is scheduled for January 21st and 22nd at the Eastern States Exposition (home of the "Big E" fair), Memorial Avenue, West Springfield.

This automotive extravaganza has over 400 vendors of automotive parts and literature for antique cars, 4x4, street rod, drag racing, and oval track. The show has been nationally recognized as one of the biggest attended and popular functions of its type by Hemming's Motor News. Traditionally, all 400 vendor spaces sell out by November 1st,

and this year was no exception.

However, the show's promoters have created one huge general area for individuals selling oval track parts. This is not for complete cars or professional vendors, but for teams and vendors with miscellaneous small parts ... parts like fuel cells, safety hubs, quick-change rears, manifolds, transmissions, engines, shocks, A frames, pulleys, belts, rims, and body panels.

This area will be divided amongst these oval track people to sell equipment when reserved in advance (with a limited-share space for just \$75). There is no exact-size spot; it's a community location with several people combined. This offer is only good for oval track teams, selling only hard-

core race parts. Sections of space are limited. Remember, no complete cars in these spots.

Also remember, a free posted area with information with photos of complete cars, trucks, trailers, etc., is available. Send these photos and listings to the show.

"Auto Parts Swap 'N Sell" is on January 21st and 22nd (Indoors with 400 vendors). All space is sold out, with the exception of the oval track cop area. For this space, call (203) 871-6376; ask for Ben only.

The show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on both days. For a free brochure, write to: Start/Finish Productions, Box 2124, Vernon, CT, 06066.

The Agawam All Stars Vs. The Harlem Wizards!



IN LEFT PHOTO, Joann McGeoghan of the Agawam All Stars displays her basketball prowess while teammate and School Committee member Louise David looks on. IN RIGHT PHOTO, members of the Harlem Wizards, which competed against the Agawam All Stars in a fundraising athletic performance at Agawam High School on Thursday, December 8th. Advertiser News photos by Jack Lussier.

Lack Of Brownie Offense Results In Hockey Victory For Longmeadow

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High varsity hockey team spent Tuesday evening (December 20th) learning something about themselves. The lesson—don't always depend upon your defense to carry the day.

And, this lesson was learned the hard way, as the Brownies lost 9-3 against Longmeadow at the venerable Eddie Shore Arena in West Springfield. From the get go, the Lancers showed the Agawam players how a team stick-handles the puck into the enemy zone to set up good, short-range scoring opportunities.

Longmeadow scored four times in the first period. Two came off the stick of star senior forward Jeff Nietupski (three goals and an assist on the night), courtesy of a pair of assists from his linemate, junior center Jay Warwick (three assists).

The other Lancer lamp-lighters came unassisted from frosh forward Arron Quinn (one goal) and junior defenseman Byron Long (two goals), with assists from Sean Keane (one goal, three assists) and Mark Doyle (one assist). For most of that period, the Brownie "D" was simply overmatched.

As Fran Pycko (Agawam's third-year coach) noted, "We were playing with our heads down on defense. We seemed only concerned with getting the puck out of our zone rather than working it ahead."

All the Lancer goals in that period came from within a five- to 10-foot perimeter around the Brownie net. As good as junior Agawam goalie Derek Benton is, you can't expect him to stand up to what amounted to a Longmeadow firing squad that was too close to miss very much.

The Lancers ended up with 12 shots on the Brownie net in that period; Agawam answered with eight of their own, mostly from off-angles and long range.

The Second Period - "A Little Different"

The second period was a little different ... Agawam suddenly came alive. They found the ag-

gressiveness that had forsaken them during the first 15 minutes.

They got a power play 15 seconds in when Lancer defenseman Brennon White (responding to the Brownie attack) got called for roughing and unsportsmanlike conduct. But the Brownies, despite their heightened play, couldn't capitalize on the good fortune.

At 1:42 of the period, Agawam's Brendon Silk got caught holding and was banished to the box. Silk, serving only a minute to White's three, got out first, enabling them to continue their power play. But Longmeadow was up to the challenge and scored a short-handed goal at 3:32 off the stick of Nietupski. That made it 5-0, Lancers.

Right then, many probably thought it was about time for the Brownies to fold up the tents. Wrong! Agawam started stick-handling the puck into the Lancer zone, rather than dumping it in as they'd been doing earlier. Finally, it paid off as junior from junior winger Kevin Ghareeb (two assists) right in front of the Lancer net and dinked it past the flopping Longmeadow goaltender, Pat O'Hara, who (up to then) had been a brick wall. It was 5-1, Lancers.

Agawam was now working intelligently for their shots. Their next score came at 13:15 of the second period. Senior forward Jay Biagetti (one goal)—who possesses one of the meanest slap shots in Western Mass.—wound up after a nice feed from his junior right wing, Matt Radwanski (one assist), who'd directed a pass from freshman winger Brendan Silk (one assist), and sent a laser beam from 20 feet out on the left, past O'Hara's stick side. Suddenly, it was 5-2, Brownies at the end of the second period. The Brownies had seven shots on goal in the period; Longmeadow tested Benton eight times.

Agawam came out loaded for bear in the third. They put a big rush on the Lancer net 10 seconds in. With frenzied help from his defense, O'Hara managed to block three Brownie shots, all of which were right in and right on.

Then, Longmeadow (showing some guts) came storming up the ice and, at 28 seconds of the period, Brennon White (one goal) bore down on the Brownie goal, the puck on his stick (compliment of teammates Tony Siciliano [one assist] and Nietupski). Benton could only watch this one go in. The Lancers went up by four, 6-2.

The Brownies might have been close to turning belly up, but there was still a twitch in the corpse. Willett, showing some of his own power, wound up at 1:09 of the period and sent a blast from the left point that beat O'Hara to the short side. Kevin Ghareeb got the assist that made it 6-3 Longmeadow.

Things Get "Ugly"

But then it got ugly. The Lancers, clearly the quicker team to the puck, started using that quickness. They frustrated Agawam into a series of foolish penalties at the end when the Brownies were still in it.

Ghareeb had two great scoring opportunities, both of which were thundering slap shots right on the Lancer net at 3:15 of the final period. Neither connected.

He got frustrated and drilled a Longmeadow defender into the boards. He sat with a charge. It was clearly a frustration job, but it hurt.

Then Matt Disco got called for a trip at 3:23. At 4:04, Neal White was called for holding. The Brownies were not only short-handed, they were in disarray. And the floodgates opened.

The Lancers scored the final three goals and sent the game into what's called the "mercy rule." That means when a team has been soundly beaten, the clock continues to run throughout the third period.

When it was over, Coach Pycko had some further observations about his Brownies: "We have no chemistry yet. We have a long way to go."

The final shots on net read Longmeadow 30, Agawam 24.

Agawam is now 1-1. Longmeadow is 3-0.

Conte's Girls Are Prepared For Another Season Of Basketball

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There's one thing any team can count on—if you are good, or were recently good, everyone will be out to get you; to put a notch on their gun handle, as it were.

That's the problem the Agawam High varsity girls' basketball team will face this year. They're coming off a 22-3 season that saw them grab a share of the Valley League co-championship (with Northampton) and make it all the way to the state finals (where they lost to Haverhill, 52-45).

The Brownies will have to do it this time around without Cyndi Stone. Last year, she was the player of the year in Western Massachusetts girls' hoop. At 6'2" tall, she was a force. She not only gave the Brownies a determined will to win but height in a sport that doesn't see lots of it. She now plays in the Atlantic Ten, at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia, where she's contributed mightily in several games as a freshman.

Who Will Fill The Void?

Who will step in to fill that void? Head Coach Lou Conte freely admits, "There's no way we can be better than last season." But that doesn't mean the nine-year veteran of the sideline was has thrown in the towel. Champions have a hard time doing that. "We'll be different," he says.

That difference will be provided by three players, all veterans of not only basketball, but standouts of other sports as well: **Kristen Schmaelzle** (soccer), **Shauna Nacewicz** (soccer), and **Katie LaBreck** (field hockey). Conte says the 5'9" senior Schmaelzle will be his post-up player. The position is a rugged one. But if you've ever seen her play, you know she loves the contact. The 5'5" Nacewicz and 5'4" LaBreck, both seniors, will be called upon to provide a great deal of the offense and part of the defense. LaBreck is a shooter, according to Conte, who can play either off guard or forward. And he also notes that this is the year she'll have to take over leadership of the team. Nacewicz is a tenacious defender.

"We'll play an up tempo offense," he says, "because we don't have the height. We'll rely on a transition game, one that makes the other team turn it over."

As far as defense goes, it'll be constantly switching from man to zone. They'll use the trap when the opportunity presents itself. They'll press if they get a chance. As with all smaller teams, success on 'D' will come from quickness. Conte believes he has enough of that commodity to be competitive.

He has other weapons. Five foot, seven inch junior **Jaime Thomas** can also post up. When he can get a match-up, he'll have her guard the opponent's toughest scorer. One person who'll help the Agawam running game is 5'5" junior forward, **Sue Defilipi**. If you have ever seen her play soccer, you know she's a burner and aggressive, to boot. **Courtne Hyland**, another junior, standing in at 5'4", will see her share of action at the two guard.

One player who'll be missed is senior **Dina DeMarco**. She combined everything a coach could want in a player; the tremendous desire to win, athletic ability, intelligence, and court sense. She has had a series of serious knee injuries. One of the most devastating came in last season's state basketball championship game. It doesn't appear that she'll play basketball this year. Her spot on the lineup will be filled by freshman guard **Kristen Patterson**. Though just a freshman, if you had a chance to see her play soccer during the fall, you could readily tell that she's a gamer and like DeMarco, won't give up.

They'll have a tough row to hoe. Conte singles out the clubs who'll give them the toughest of times this season—Northampton, Pittsfield, and Waconah.

More Than Just Winning

There will be another factor to the Agawam girls' fortunes this season. Conte is especially proud of the message he tries to send his team. "We don't stress winning here," he says. "We ask if they did well in school today? Did they help someone who might need some help? We ask if they told their parents that they loved them before they went to bed last night?"

In a world that seems to get even colder, those seem to be the right things to do.

Maybe it's worked. The Agawam girls' varsity basketball team has posted a 144-38 record over the past eight years under Conte. Currently, they have four outstanding scholar-athletes in college: Stone, at St. Joe's; Laura Bielitz, at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Kim Trudel, at Stonehill; and Joy Clark, at Western New England College.

The Brownie girls open their season officially on Thursday, December 22nd when they host a holiday tournament at Agawam High School. The opponents will be Pittsfield, Waconah, and Northampton. Agawam will take on Pittsfield and Northampton will take on Waconah. The championship game will be Friday night at 7:00 p.m.

Looking Forward To The Competition...

Despite Some Shortcomings, AHS's Boys' Basketball Team Is Cautiously Optimistic

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

When you are coming off a 6-14 season, have a mess of injuries, a height problem, and will face, among the regulars, three tough newcomers into your conference, you'd think it couldn't get much worse.

So it would seem for the Agawam High boys' varsity basketball team. Maybe not, according to head Coach Mike Martin. The 10-year Brownie mentor tells us, "We could be better than last season."

New Team Attitude

That burst of cautious optimism stems, he says, from a new attitude on his club. "We're practicing harder than ever. And we're changing our tactics, especially the way we approach the game. In the past we were too mechanical. We played point-to-point basketball, without giving the overall picture much thought. Now, we're striving to become more creative on the court."

That's where the lack of size factors in. Their tallest guy, 6'5" senior center Ryan Henderson, is down with tendonitis. His absence (for an indefinite period) will hurt their post-up game. That's why the Brownies will have to run the ball a lot more than they'd like.

Martin hopes he'll have the horses to operate the break. He will enjoy one of the best guards in the area at the controls, 5'11" Nathan Wooley. Wooley has played for Martin since he was a freshman.

"Nathan is still a little out of shape," Martin observed. "But he's a hard worker and should be ready to go when the gun sounds."

However, the injury bug may be a factor beyond the center position. Derek Poole is down with an ankle injury. The 6'1" wing man (a senior) relies on speed and is a natural when plugged into an up-tempo offense. That bad wheel may hurt his early productivity.

Also, junior swing man Joe Albano (6'1") has a muscle pull and isn't 100 percent yet.

So, in the early going, some players will have to step in and provide a spark and put up some numbers. "We have Dan Bodman," Martin notes.

Martin said that while the 6'3" senior forward might not be the most talented frontcourt player in the region, he makes up for this in hustle and determination. Bodman also runs the floor well, an asset critical to the coach's offensive philosophy.

Then there's senior forward Todd Boskiewicz. Martin has high hopes for the 6'3" soccer star. "Todd is a guy blessed with natural talent. If he gets it under control and plays within his ability, he'll be a force this season," Martin says. Boskiewicz can also run the floor.

The coach has three sophomores he's particularly high on - 6'0" Chris Bitzas, 5'11" Todd

Jorgensen, and 6'2" Phil McGeoghan. Of McGeoghan, Martin says, "The kid has the potential to be one of the best ever to play Agawam basketball."

There's an old cliché in sports: "Offense puts people in the stands. Defense puts the trophy in your hands." "D" might be the biggest problem this team will face this time around.

Martin plans to approach the problem in the traditional manner where height is a problem - "We'll run every defense there is at our opponents. That means tough man-to-man, various zones (depending on our opponent's ability to score from the outside), presses, and traps. We'll be as creative when we don't have the ball as we will be when it's in our hands," said Martin.

There are other factors the Brownie hoopsters will have to take into consideration this season. Three of them are defending Western Mass. champs Chicopee, Amherst, and Northampton. All have been added to the Valley Wheel in 1994-95. Being replaced are Minnechaug, West Side, and Westfield (all now in the Suburban League).

This is an ongoing effort to get all of the conferences in Western Mass. on an even keel competitively, according to Martin. These teams have some impressive credentials. Chicopee was the Suburban League runner-up champ last year as well as Division I champs. Amherst was the Suburban League co-runner-up champ and a Division I semi-finalist. And Northampton went along for the ride but still finished with a 12-9 slate.

Much Tougher Valley Wheel This Year

Compare these records to the records of Westfield, West Side, and Minnechaug in the Valley Wheel from a year ago, and there's no doubt the Wheel will definitely be turning this season. "If the teams we had in last year's league were still with us, we could count on at least four to six wins. We'll be tested this season. Outside of the city leagues, the Valley Wheel is now the toughest conference in Western Mass.," said Martin.

Martin did point out, however, that AHS basketball has been on the upswing in his 10 years and therefore the team isn't afraid of new challenges. "Before I got here the team had gone through an 0-55 losing streak. In the last 10 years, we've been in the playoffs eight times."

The Brownies will get their baptism of fire by hosting the opening season holiday tournament at their own gym on Thursday, December 22nd. The other teams competing will be St. Joe's of Pittsfield, Waconah from the Berkshires, and Fitch High School of Groton, Conn.

Season's Greetings!

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Lisa Tassone Named To AIC's Post-Season All-Star Soccer Teams

Lisa Tassone of Agawam, who is American International College's senior goaltender for the women's soccer team, capped a solid collegiate career by being named to the post-season all-star soccer teams.

Tassone was a second-team National Soccer Coaches Association of America/Umbro Division II All-Northeast Region selec. Tassone was a second-team selection at goaltender.

Tassone was the lone AIC player on the All-Northeast Region squad. She started in 18 contests and made 142 saves and recorded four shutouts.

Tassone finished with a 1.45 goals against average and 84.5 save percentage. She was also selected to NEWISA Senior All-New England Team as a second-team selection.

Tassone was also selected to the Northeast-10 Conference All-Star unit. She was a second-team pick in goal.

The Yellow Jackets posted their first .500 season since the 1991 campaign and also reached the NE-10 playoffs for the first time since 1991. AIC finished 9-9-1 overall and 4-4-1 in the NE-10 regular season to place fifth in the conference. AIC lost to fourth-seeded Merrimack 1-0 in the first-round of the NE-10 playoffs.



LISA TASSONE OF AGAWAM, the senior goaltender for AIC's women's soccer team.

Sportsmen's Corner

—By Bill Chiba—
1003 No. Westfield St.
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Here's A Last-Minute Holiday Shopping Idea

Need a unique gift for that hard-to-shop-for person on your holiday list? How about a pair of red-breasted mergansers? Two canvasbacks? Or a spectacled eider?

Even better than a partridge in a pear tree, these birds keep on giving. As part of the collectible Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) series, they're helping conserve wildlife heritage for future generations. Since the 1930's, the over \$450 million raised from duck stamp sales have purchased 4.2 million acres of wetlands for preservation.

Featuring exclusive designs by wildlife artists, the stamps sell for \$15, of which \$14.70 goes directly into a fund to acquire wetlands. Stamps are available from most local post offices, national wildlife refuges, and some sporting goods stores.

All waterfowl hunters age 16 and older must purchase a stamp each year, but they're also popular among collectors and those who wish to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

NORTHEAST INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The Northeast Indoor 3-D Championship, I.B.O. World Championship Qualifier (which is 1995's biggest bow shoot in the northeast), will be held in conjunction with the Springfield Sportsmen Show, "Outdoors Northeast," from February 23rd through February 26th.

O.S.E.G. has joined the International Bowhunting Organization, I.B.O., in bringing the first northeast World Qualifier to the Big E.

I.B.O. and O.S.E.G. invite all bow shooters to participate in the shoot and show. The 3-D event will be a 40-target shoot, and all 19 I.B.O. shooting categories will be open to all on each day of the show. Ted LaBorde will be running the shows at the Coliseum in the Springfield Sportsmen Show. Walk-in shooters are welcome, and pre-registration is not necessary.

The Boston Sportsmen Show will be held at the Bayside Expo Center in Boston from February 9th through February 12th; and the Rochester Sport-

smen Show will take place at the Dome Center in Henrietta, New York, from March 9th through March 12th.

DIARIES AND DEER HUNTERS' HABITS

Central and western New York deer hunters who report records of their hunts to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation are providing extremely interesting information, according to Mike Hall, senior wildlife biologist, stationed in Cortland.

For example, during the 1993 season, bowhunters saw 905 bucks in 6,717 hours of hunting—that is one buck for every seven hours and 24 minutes of hunting. Gunhunters reported 438 bucks during 9,197 hours afield, or one buck sighted for every 21 hours of hunting on average.

The two groups sighted does at close to the same frequency. Bowhunters took less than one percent of deer seen; gunhunters took 3.6 percent.

MASSACHUSETTS ACQUIRES JUG END RESORT

The recent acquisition of the former Jug End Resort property by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is a boon to outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

According to Thomas P. Keefe, western district manager for the division, the 1,350 acre tract in South Egremont has been designated a wildlife management area and is open to "all legal activities" of the division of fisheries and wildlife and the division of forests and parks.

The once-thriving resort, which catered to vacationers and weekenders, has been closed for a long time, vandalized, and fallen into dilapidated condition. Plans call for razing the buildings, removing hazardous materials, and removing lead from the site of a former trap and skeet range there.

VERMONT SKI RESORTS OFFER GREAT VALUE

With Christmas just a few days away, skiers shopping for the best skiing value during the holidays should look no further than Vermont.

Vermont currently offers the most pre-holiday skiing in the East. Vermont resorts average more than 70 percent of skiable terrain covered by snowmaking, and they will continue to make snow around the clock whenever weather permits (thereby allowing them to deepen base depths and open more terrain for the upcoming holiday week).

As an added value, skiers now have two options to find out the latest ski conditions, and to book a reservation at a specific Vermont ski resort. They can call 1-800-VERMONT or call 802-229-0531.

Either number provides an updated statewide ski report (including mountain weather) and then the option to hear a specific ski conditions report from an individual mountain, or to be connected directly to the lodging reservations service at the resort.

Perspective On Sports...

Holiday Wishes Of A Sports-Related Nature

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Being a reporter, any kind of reporter, can make one slightly cynical. It comes with the territory. That's why this particular season of the year is so special. It gives me a chance to throw off the yoke of that cynicism and serve up some holiday hopes and wishes to those I've chronicled, both in a positive or negative way during the previous year.

To Agawam High Football Coach **Dean Vecchiarelli**, may you get that elusive super season and a Super Bowl win. One other thing, Coach. May you find another Jason Votzakos somewhere under the tree. My wish to **Jason Votzakos**, may you find a good college, with a good academic and football program. And may you have four more years of gridiron glory. To **Dom Pisano**, keep up the tradition. To assistant Coaches **Eric Lunden**, **Gary Geiger**, and **Curt Boyle**, may you get the Thanksgiving Day win next season. To **Brian Colby** and the rest of the Agawam football Brownies, never lose that "never give up" attitude. It will serve all of you well in the years to come.

To former Agawam girls' soccer Coach **Bill O'Brien**, may your retirement from the game be as rewarding as your participation was in it. Here's a wish for **Dina DeMarco**—may you find sound knees under the tree. And if it isn't meant to be, I wish for you the strength to accept that reality. I also hope that you never give up hope. (Those observations may sound contradictory, but all of you who've been there know what I mean.)

Here's a wish for boys' soccer Coach **Dwight Northrup**—another full helping of optimism under the tree.

For girls' field hockey Coach **Cindy Grieve**, may her young team measure up to the high standards she has set for herself and them.

And a wish for her star, **Becky Wing**; may she realize her full potential in a complicated sport.

To Agawam High School Athletic Director **Kathy McSweeney**, may you always have warm fall nights for football and a full house for all Brownie sporting events.

To Agawam girls' gymnastics Coach **Heather Sawyer**, keep up that passion for coaching. And you might find a championship under the tree.

To Agawam gymnastics star **Melanie Demastrie**, may you have a shot at a future Olympiad.

To Agawam girls' varsity basketball Coach **Lou Conte**, may you keep giving the right message to your athletes; that there is more to life than winning.

To Agawam tri-athlete **Tom DeLuca**, may you finally get to compete in Hawaii.

Here's a wish for **Frank Andruss** and **Frank Disco** of F&F Productions; may all that hard work in a tough business pay off.

To **Jason Wooley**, may you experience as much success in the business world as you did on the playing fields.

To the hunters, if you have to do it, be careful. To everyone, happy holidays!

Happy Holidays
from the AAN office staff...
Ellen, Lee, Teri, & Phil



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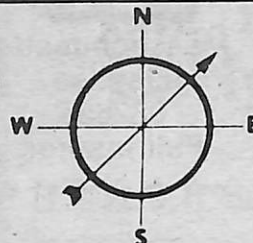
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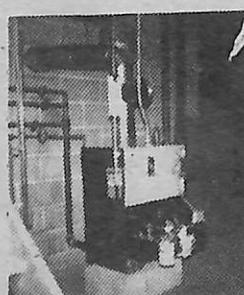
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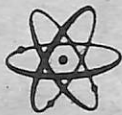
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